

Turkey plans aid-for-oil deal with Iraq

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said Wednesday it would send Iraq humanitarian aid in return for oil to be shipped from a pipeline made idle by U.N. trade sanctions on Baghdad. "The oil will not be used in the world market," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman told reporters. "But there will be some income for Turkey, and in return for this we will send food and medicine to Iraq in compliance with U.N. resolutions." Several million barrels of oil has been trapped in the 1,000 kilometre Iraq-Turkish pipeline since August 1990 when the United Nations imposed a trade embargo on Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. Mr. Ataman said all the oil would be pumped out to Turkish refineries under a plan agreed by the two countries last week to examine the pipeline for possible corrosion and make repairs. The pipeline would be flushed, refilled and made ready for Iraqi oil exports to resume whenever U.N. sanctions are lifted. "About 3.8 million barrels belong to Turkey," Mr. Ataman said. "So oil belonging to Iraq will also be coming here...but there is no question of material gain for Iraq in the process."

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Majali cancels trip

AMMAN (R) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali has cancelled a trip to Romania during which he was to attend an international economic forum, officials said on Wednesday. They gave no reason for his decision.

Iraq denies planting bomb in Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq's state-run news agency Wednesday denied Iranian radio reports that Baghdad's agents were responsible for planting a bomb in Tehran. The bomb exploded Tuesday in one of Tehran's busiest streets, wounding 13 people, including a 12-year-old child. The Iraqi news agency's international affairs editor said the Iranian accusation was "absolutely silly" and part of an anti-Iraqi media campaign. Tehran Radio has blamed the bombing on "Iraqi infiltrators."

Endeavour lands

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (AP) — Space shuttle Endeavour took a detour and landed in California's Mojave desert Wednesday after calling off a second landing attempt in cloudy Cape Canaveral. The radar, a joint project of the United States, Germany and Italy, mapped over 111 million square kilometres of the earth, including 25 per cent of the world's land. The space shuttle and its crew of six swooped through a clear sky and touched down at Edwards Air Force Base at 1654 GMT, 11 days after blasting off from Florida on a mission to gather 3-D images of earth with sophisticated radar instruments.

Kuwait magazine faces prosecution

KUWAIT (AP) — The Ministry of Information has referred a weekly magazine belonging to an Islamic group to the prosecutor on charges of publishing reports that could undermine Kuwait's relations with other Arab countries, judicial sources said Wednesday. Attorney General Mohammad Al Zoubi told the Associated Press that he had summoned the editor-in-chief of Al Mujtama and some of his staff for questioning after they had been accused of "violating the publications law." Al Mujtama has been critical of the Egyptian government's crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists. Its chief editor, Mohammad Al Bousairi, said he had received a number of letters from the Ministry of Information urging the magazine to be more careful with its reports.

U.N. says Iraqi research safe

BAGHDAD (R) — Sites visited so far by a U.N. inspection team indicate that Iraq's biological research is safe and normal, a United Nations expert said on Wednesday. "From what we have seen already, we have no reason to believe that something wrong is going on in this country," Volker Beck, head of a visiting U.N. team of biological experts, told Reuters. Mr. Beck arrived in Baghdad on April 8 and has so far visited more than a dozen Iraqi sites engaged in biological research. He said his team inspected work and instruments at different types of facilities, "starting with universities to routine laboratories up to production sites that work in the field of biological technology."

Somali kidnap Sudanese envoy

MOGADISHU (R) — Somali gunmen have kidnapped Sudan's envoy to Somalia in a notorious Mogadishu district where inter-clan fighting has raged for four days. Witnesses said Abdul Baqi Mohammad Hassan was about to arrive on Tuesday at the Nasser Hotel when three gunmen intercepted his car, dragged him into their vehicle and sped off. Staff at the hotel said no ransom demands had been received. Sudanese community leaders were holding talks with leaders of the Hawadle clan

Israel, PLO reach deal on civil powers and water for Gaza

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiators wrapped up an agreement Wednesday on transferring civil government powers to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, PLO delegate Jamil Tarif said. The agreement resolves dozens of disputes over how Palestinians will run day-to-day affairs in Gaza and the West Bank town once Israel's army withdraws. But other differences have yet to be resolved before Israel begins the actual withdrawal. Two of the toughest conflicts — legal jurisdiction and release of Palestinian prisoners — were to be discussed by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres at a meeting Wednesday night or Thursday in Bucharest, Romania. Mr. Peres said the negotiations were "getting close to the end" as he left Israel for the meeting.

Mr. Tarif, who heads the PLO's negotiating team on civilian issues, said that among the 38 categories of civilian control agreed to Wednesday in Cairo was the troublesome issue of water. He said the agreement means people in the occupied territories "will feel they are coming to the end of occupation, and this is the most important achievement of the Gaza-Jericho accord." Mr. Tarif said the two chief negotiators — the PLO's Nabil Shaath and Israeli Major General Amnon Shahak — approved the civil government agreement at a meeting Wednesday afternoon. According to Mr. Tarif, the water agreement specifies supplies to Gaza's Jewish settlements will remain under Israel's control but the amount of water for settlers will not be increased.

Gadi Zohar, head of the Israeli delegation for transfer of civilian authority to Palestinians, said: "We reached an agreement on the water. It's finished." He would not give any further details but said Gen. Shahak would give more information on the water deal on Thursday. Mr. Tarif said the Palestinians would be informed of the number of wells in settlements and the amount of water used. The PLO has sought figures from Israel on water use since peace talks began in Madrid, Spain, in October 1991. Earlier, Dr. Shaath said the water agreement meant "essentially the water and its administration in the Gaza Strip and Jericho will be under Palestinian control." But sources said the agreement would not be a precedent for

Palestinian dies; Hamas threatens retaliation for crackdown

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, on Wednesday threatened to retaliate against Israel's sweeping arrest of about 400 activists by targeting Israeli secret agents. In the occupied West Bank, a Palestinian died of his wounds a day after being shot by soldiers who opened fire on stone-throwing protesters, hospital officials said. The victim was identified as Yassin Mahmoud Hamad, 23. The army confirmed wounding six Palestinians in the clash at Qalandia refugee camp north of Jerusalem. A leaflet published by the military arm of Hamas, a group opposed to the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, said it would "not take long to make its response to this outrageous campaign" of arrests in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The leaflet said the armed underground cells of Hamas, known as the Izzedine Al Qassam Brigades, were "planning attacks on Israeli intelligence officers."

It mentioned two past killings of Shin Bet security agents including one slain earlier this year in Ramallah and another killed in January 1993 in Jerusalem. Both were believed carried out through the help of Palestinian informers, who turned on their handlers. Hamas activists killed 12 Israelis in two suicide bombings this month, and the group has vowed to keep striking until it equals the death toll of more than 30 Palestinians massacred in Hebron in February by a Jewish settler. Israel said Wednesday it had rounded up 362 suspected Hamas activists this week in a sweep throughout the occupied lands. "The account between us and the terror twins (Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin) and (army chief Elad) Barak will stay open so long as there is one Israeli soldier on the West Bank and Gaza Strip," the leaflet said. In a replay of the December 1992 sweep that preceded the expulsion to Lebanon for a year of hundreds of Muslim activists, troops and plainclothes agents broke into houses all over the occupied lands on Tuesday, herding suspects into minibuses.

"Some will stand trial, some will face administrative detention, and others are being held for the purpose of interrogation," Police Minister Moshe Shahal told parliament. At least eight of the detainees had been exiled in Lebanon. In its statement faxed to international news organisations, Hamas warned Shin Bet secret police agents not to torture the detainees. The Israeli army said the pre-dawn roundup Tuesday of activists from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, another militant group, was designed to curtail future such operations. The Haaretz daily said that some of those arrested were involved in planning the two suicide attacks. Others were lower-level activists, Israeli and Palestinian reports said. A measure of the nervousness that the threats have engendered in Israel came Wednesday with a bogus report of a bus attack broadcast immediately on the army-run radio station. Minutes later police said they were questioning a deranged elderly woman suspected of calling police with the crank report.

Iraqi diplomats refuse to quit Beirut embassy

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Iraqi diplomats, ordered to get out of Lebanon, are refusing to leave the embassy unless all staff including two wanted over the murder of a dissident, are granted safe passage, official sources said on Wednesday. The Beirut government ordered the embassy closed by Friday. Two Iraqi diplomats already are in police custody, suspected of involvement in the April 12 assassination of Sheikh Tuleh Ali Al Subeili, a key figure in a plot to overthrow Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein last year. The reported Iraqi threat to defy the expulsion orders further heightened tensions in the week-long standoff between the two countries, which resulted in Lebanon severing diplomatic ties with Iraq. In Baghdad, a Foreign Ministry spokesman accused Lebanon of violating the 1961 Vienna convention that regulates diplomatic immunity. "It has detained diplomats who possess diplomatic immunity... charging them with baseless accusations," the spokesman was quoted as saying by the state-run Iraqi News Agency (INA). The spokesman said Iraq demanded that "the Lebanese

government release the detained diplomats immediately and refrain from harassing others in any way." He demanded that Lebanon allow all staff at the embassy to leave the country. The case raised questions over whether the Beirut government had the jurisdiction under international law to arrest and put on trial foreign diplomats. There is no precedent in Lebanon of a diplomat put on trial. The French-language L'Orient le Jour newspaper said Wednesday Iraqi Charge d'Affaires Awad Fakhr demanded safe passage out of the country for himself and four diplomats holed up in the mission in Beirut's eastern suburb of Hazmeh. "Repatriation of all (except the two arrested diplomats), or of no one," the newspaper quoted Baghdad's top diplomat in Beirut as saying. Failing that, Mr. Awad reportedly said, the embassy staff would barricade themselves in the complex. Lebanese government and judicial authorities declined to comment on the newspaper report. Telephone calls to the embassy were not answered Wednesday. Lebanon has told all embas-

sy staff to leave, except for a third diplomat and a guard whose surrender it has demanded. The two, Attaché Ali Darwish and embassy guard Hadi Hassan, are also suspected of involvement in the killing of Subeili on April 12. They sought refuge at the embassy after the assassination. Dozens of policemen are blockading the Iraqi mission in the Lebanese capital with orders to arrest Mr. Darwish and Mr. Hassan if they venture out. Police chased away news photographers who tried to take pictures. The two diplomats already in detention are Cultural Attaché Mohammad Khadhem, 37, and Commercial Attaché Khaled Khalaf. They were arrested by police shortly after the 64-year-old Subeili was shot with a single bullet to the heart as he answered the door at his Beirut apartment. The Lebanese government says the two attaches, currently held in solitary confinement at a police station, were caught red-handed and have confessed to committing the crime under orders from Iraq's intelligence staff.

Christopher confirms he will carry 'proposals' to end crisis over blockade

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, scheduled to start a Mideast tour on Sunday, said Tuesday he was carrying proposals to ease "the burden" of the U.S.-led naval blockade on the Red Sea port of Aden. Mr. Christopher, who is expected to meet His Majesty King Hussein in London Monday, said the U.S. administration "quite understands that Iraqi sanctions have imposed a considerable burden on Jordan."

Christopher said. Speaking on the U.S. information network Worldnet, Mr. Christopher said he felt reassured that Jordan "does not want to be hospitable to terrorists or have terrorists operating on its territory," in reference to the recent ban on Hamas activities in the Kingdom after one of its Amman-based members claimed responsibility for suicide attacks in Israel. Asked whether the U.S. administration viewed positively a statement by Hamas expressing readiness to accept the ongoing peace process if Israel withdrew from the territories it occupied in 1967, Mr. Christopher said: "If they have a sincere desire to assist in a peace process they are very welcome."

"If they are ready to serve the cause of peace and begin to play a different role in the peace process... I look forward to that," he said adding that he "is not seeing any sign of that yet."

He rejected charges that Jordan was being pressured to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel before fully negotiating the terms on the agenda signed in Washington on Sept. 14 last year saying that "there has been a good deal of progress and there was an agreement on the agenda and a good deal of the work."

Resistance strikes in S. Lebanon

MARIYOUN (Agencies) — Guerrillas attacked Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon Wednesday, sparking mortar and artillery duels in which three Lebanese civilians were killed and four wounded, security sources said. The Hizbollah group said its guerrillas blasted an outpost of the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia with rocket-propelled grenades and machine-gun fire. Security sources said there were no casualties in the early evening attack on the SLA outpost in Shoumariyeh, on the edge of the central sector of Israel's "security zone," said the sources.

Regent urges Arab, Muslim efforts to foil Israeli plots in Jerusalem

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday urged Arab and Islamic countries to unite their stand and confront Israeli plots in Jerusalem and the threats the plots pose to the Arab and Islamic character of the Holy City. Speaking at the Royal Court at a meeting with the ministers of Awqaf and Islamic affairs of Syria, Yemen and Iraq who attended Monday's celebrations marking the completion of the restoration of the Dome of the Rock mosque, the Regent reviewed the Hashemite family's efforts to protect the holy places and its long historical links with and defence of the Holy City. Minister of State, Adel Ibraheem, met with delegations from the occupied Arab territories who took part in the celebrations and discussed continued Jordanian ser-

vices to Palestinian students who study in Jordanian universities and facilities for Muslims performing the pilgrimage in Mecca. Delegations from various Arab and Islamic countries who took part in the celebrations were taken on visits Wednesday to Mutia near Karak and the shrine set up on the burial places of the companions of the Prophet Mohammad in Jordan.

Dr. Majali said "the government has nothing to fear and is willing to discuss any thing the deputies want" in special meetings. Without taking a vote on a proposal by Mr. Haddadin to call on the King to add public freedoms issues to the agenda, the House moved into a lengthy discussion of the draft sales tax law which was presented to the House as an urgent legislation earlier this year. Thirty deputies spoke on the legislation, expressing views that ranged from rejecting it in principle, objections to certain elements in it or support for the draft legislation. The IAF demanded that the House reject the draft law because it is imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), increased the tax burden on the low-income people and there are better alternatives to it. Claiming that the sales tax will weaken the national industry, IAF Deputy Hamman Said asked whether the draft law is "a requirement of the new Middle East to which our economy will be marginal to the benefit of the (Israeli)

Deputies move to sales tax after debate on session agenda

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter
AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday started its first meeting of an extraordinary session with heated debates over the exclusion of "national and public freedom issues" from the agenda of the session and the controversial sales tax law. The Islamic Action Front (IAF), supported by leftist deputies, set the tone for the session after demanding explanation for dropping "national and public freedom issue" from the agenda, "wishing that His Majesty King Hussein would issue a Royal Decree" allowing the House to address them. IAF spokesman Hamzeh Mansour said the Royal Decree according to which the House was summoned did not specify whether the session was called in response to a request which the deputies submitted upon the end of the first ordinary session in March or in accordance with article 82 item (A) of the Constitution which gives the King the right to summon the legislature. "If the session was called in accordance with (article 82

item (A)), then we hope it succeeds... but if it was held upon the request of the 50 deputies then we wish that His Majesty would issue a Royal Decree adding public freedom issues to the agenda," said Mr. Mansour, whose statement was supported by leftist Deputy Bassam Haddadin. "Cooperation between the government and the House means that the views of the House are respected and the government has to put right its wrong by putting the item it purposely dropped on the agenda," said IAF Deputy Ahmad Kofahi. After House Speaker Taher Al Masri told lawmakers he had conveyed their request to include public freedom issues on the agenda, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said he "regretted" deputies failure to read the Constitution correctly. Dr. Majali said the Constitution gives the King the right to set the agenda of the House's extraordinary session, adding that the "government cannot impose the agenda on the King."

Expressing "wonder" at the deputies' discussion of an issue so clearly defined in the Constitution, Dr. Majali said "the government has nothing to fear and is willing to discuss any thing the deputies want" in special meetings. Without taking a vote on a proposal by Mr. Haddadin to call on the King to add public freedoms issues to the agenda, the House moved into a lengthy discussion of the draft sales tax law which was presented to the House as an urgent legislation earlier this year. Thirty deputies spoke on the legislation, expressing views that ranged from rejecting it in principle, objections to certain elements in it or support for the draft legislation. The IAF demanded that the House reject the draft law because it is imposed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), increased the tax burden on the low-income people and there are better alternatives to it. Claiming that the sales tax will weaken the national industry, IAF Deputy Hamman Said asked whether the draft law is "a requirement of the new Middle East to which our economy will be marginal to the benefit of the (Israeli)

'Slaughter' in Gorazde

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Aid workers in Gorazde pleaded for their lives Wednesday as Bosnian Serbs relentlessly shelled the hospital and other buildings in the Muslim enclave. One doctor called it a slaughter. Three rockets hit the town's already damaged hospital, killing at least 10 people and wounding more than 15, U.N. workers said in a message to U.N. offices in Geneva. At least 12 people died when nearby apartment buildings were shelled, later reports said. At some points Wednesday morning, Serb artillery flung shells into the town packed with Muslim refugees at the rate of one a minute. The few aid workers still in Gorazde spoke of despair after a three-week Serb offensive that has killed at least 367 people and wounded more than 1,000. "This is hell, horror and terror," the hospital's director, Dr. Alija Begic, said in a ham-radio transmission. "This is not a war anymore. This is slaughter, massacre."

The latest deaths came as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) began planning wider air strikes against the attackers and as U.S. President Bill Clinton prepared to unveil a new plan for Bosnia. Bosnian Serbs and Muslim forces accused each other earlier of shelling in and around Gorazde, a U.N.-declared safe area, just hours after Bosnian Serb leaders and the United Nations signed a temporary truce for the town. Some 20,000 mainly Muslim refugees from inside the enclave have flooded the town since the Serbs launched an offensive three weeks ago. More than 390 people have been killed and over 1,100 wounded in the fighting. The ferocious attacks on Gorazde prompted the U.N. this week to call on NATO to consider air strikes to protect Muslim safe areas. The current mandate provides for air support only to protect U.N. personnel. In Brussels, a NATO spokesman said the alliance considered the U.N. request

for wider air strikes in a favourable light. NATO military experts were now planning the details. France said on Wednesday it was in favour of extending the threat of air strikes to defend the U.N.'s designated safe areas in Bosnia. Foreign Ministry spokesman Richard Dugue told reporters, France wanted NATO "to underline the determination of the allies to protect safe areas effectively." Russia, which has reservations about the fresh use of NATO air strikes, has called for an urgent summit among Russia, the United States and the European Union on solving the crisis. In Washington, the White House said President Clinton was expected to announce details of his plan to deal with Bosnia later on Wednesday. The NATO spokesman said alliance Secretary-General Manfred Wörner was to contact U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the need for close coordination between NATO, the U.N. and military authorities.

Saudi rights group moves to London

NICOSIA (R) — A Saudi Arabian civil rights group said on Wednesday it was resuming activities but moving its operations to Britain following a crackdown on its members in the conservative kingdom.

A statement by the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights in Saudi Arabia (CDLR) said the group had no choice but to move to London because all means and methods of free expression and reform became impossible in Saudi Arabia.

It said repressive measures against the group included "hampering from travel, dismissal from work, closure of private practices, imprisonment, torture and threats of murder."

The statement appealed to Saudi citizens "and to all those who are eager to see the elimination of oppression and the establishment of equality and justice to cooperate with us until we accomplish these goals and objectives."

The CDLR was set up in May 1993 by ultra-conservative religious figures. It was declared illegal by Saudi religious leaders who argued that the kingdom's Islamic laws had adequate provisions for protecting citizens' rights.

The government sacked the group's members from official posts.

The statement was faxed to Reuters from London and was signed by the group's spokesman, Mohammad Al Masari, who was reported to have gone missing in March in the kingdom.

But the group said by telephone from London that Mr. Masari, who was freed from prison in Saudi Arabia in November after six months in detention for his role in setting up the group, was in London.

It said he disappeared in Saudi Arabia as a cover to arrange his escape to Europe because Saudi authorities had banned the group's members from travelling abroad.

With autonomy stalled, Gazans see slide to chaos, fear

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

KHAN YUNIS, occupied Gaza Strip — Tired of crowding with his wife and six children into a room the size of a parking space, Ibrahim Abu Mustafa made a grab for prime real estate when the Israeli army started pulling back.

"There is chaos now, so I thought it would be a good time to build," he said. "There is no authority to stop me."

But when he tried to build a house on the crest of a sand dune overlooking the Mediterranean, the Israeli army twice knocked down the foundation.

Although the building site was on the ragged edge of the Palestinian refugee camp, the dune also overlooks two Israeli army posts, so the military apparently revised its hands-off policy and stopped the construction.

This power vacuum in the Gaza Strip leaves Palestinians like Abu Mustafa in limbo between Israel's diminishing vigilance and the arrival of Palestinian authority.

Rival factions with guns are trying to control their pieces of Gaza and residents fear chaos and perhaps civil war.

"We don't have 100 per cent control. Anyone who tells you they have 100 per cent control is lying," said Hisham Abdul Razzak, released last fall from two decades in Israeli prisons and now heading the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) office in Gaza.

The head of the secretive Israeli security agency, Shin Bet, told Sunday's cabinet meeting that chaos and massacres among the Palestinians would accompany autonomy, reported the newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth.

The Palestinians concede difficulties. PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's popularity sinks as each day slips past the April 13 deadline when autonomy was supposed to begin. His reluctance to delegate real authority has not helped.

"If Arafat parachuted in today, he himself could not solve the problems we face," said Mr. Abdul Razzak.

The PLO office is flooded daily with residents seeking help in everything from land disputes to finding jobs to paying hospital bills for sons wounded in gun battles.

"Sometimes I wish I could go back (to prison) for a little time so I would not see all this," sighs Abdul Razzak.

Every morning brings a new report of a gunfight somewhere in the Gaza Strip or elsewhere in the occupied territories between rival groups of Fatah members trying to assert authority. Mr. Arafat ordered branch offices of the organisation closed this month because competition over who would sit behind the desks made bullets fly.

"Everybody recognises that there is already anarchy and a big potential for deterioration," said Palestinian economist Salah Abdul Shafi. Street leaders in their 20s who organised the fight against the occupation recent being driven out by bureaucrats who do not question orders from PLO headquarters in Tunisia.

"It is not totally out of the question that Fatah will divide. It would engulf the whole area. That would be devastating," said Khalil Shikaki, director of the Centre for Palestinian Research and Studies in Nablus.

Palestinians worry that unless Mr. Arafat finds a democratic way to assert authority soon, the slide could continue to the point where Gaza becomes another Beirut.

Turks keep up attacks on rebels in Iraq

ANKARA (R) — About 10,000 Turkish troops have killed more than 60 rebel Kurds in northern Iraq in a week-long cross-border assault, a military spokesman said on Tuesday.

"The operation will continue until the region is cleaned of the influence of separatist bandits," said Turkish General Staff spokesman Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu.

He said the land-air operation launched on April 12 had killed at least 60 rebels of the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK).

"These 60 are bodies actually found. There are more which have been hidden or taken away," he added, but gave no details of any casualties on the Turkish side.

The initial assault on PKK camps at Mezi and Kerya Deri south of the Turkish border town of Cukurca has widened westwards to encircle another PKK base at Shivi.

Newspapers quoted a Turkish military commander on the spot as saying that up to 10,000 army commandos, specially-trained mountain troops and state-paid village guard had advanced 15 kilometres inside Iraq along a 55-kilometre front.

"We can now control an area of 600 square kilometre, Sabah newspaper quoted the task force's commander, Lieutenant General Hasan Kundakci, as saying.

Gen. Kundakci was speaking to Turkish reporters taken to the Mezi camp, captured by Turkish troops at the weekend.

Troops have seized anti-aircraft guns, mortars, automatic weapons, rocket-propelled grenades, rifles, hand grenades, landmines, explosives, wireless sets, ammunition and caches of food and clothing in PKK hideouts in the rugged region.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said on Tuesday that 1994 would be a turning point in the fight against the PKK.

"We are determined to end terrorism... they (PKK rebels) should surrender before summer comes," she told her parliamentary party group.

Israelis, Palestinians must see changes on the ground, says Ross

By Rosalind Mandler
Murphy

WASHINGTON (USA) — The Middle East peace process has reached a point where it is imperative that both Palestinians and Israelis see positive and concrete changes on the ground, Dennis Ross, the U.S. special Middle East coordinator, said April 18.

Mr. Ross was discussing the status of the peace process during remarks to the National Foreign Policy Conference for Leaders in Higher Department Secretary Christopher and Counsellor Wirth, speaking on other topics, also addressed the conference.

Mr. Ross recounted the escalating violence in the Israel and the occupied territories since the February 25 massacre of Palestinian workers by a Jewish settler in Hebron and the subsequent acts of retaliation by Arabs who killed Israelis.

Those carrying out these acts, he charged, "are trying to target and kill peace."

The primary task for the United States and the parties to the negotiations therefore, is to "come out and generate enough momentum and enough tangible progress" to move the peace process forward and "isolate and discredit the extremists," Mr. Ross said.

Israeli and Palestinian negotiators recognise the need to accelerate the negotiations and implement the declaration of Principles and have resumed their talks in Cairo, Mr. Ross reported.

The greatest challenge these negotiators face, Mr. Ross said, "is to be able to convince their publics that, in fact, the promise of the agreement that was reached in September is going to be matched by new realities on the ground."

Mr. Ross conceded that up to this point there has been "a gap" between the high expectations created by the declaration of principles and what in fact has been achieved since the signing of the agreement on the White House lawn on September 13.

"Since that time, you have had the promise of that agreement which is still largely abstract in terms of people on both sides, and at the same point, you have had a change in realities on the ground that for the most part has been negative," Mr. Ross said.

While the ongoing negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians on the details of the declaration have "helped to demonstrate the kind of mutual stake they have in the agreement," these talks have not resulted in concrete changes on the ground, he admitted.

"Palestinians and Israelis alike are going to have to see a very different kind of future. They are going to have to see something on the ground that mirrors the promise that was built into the agreement," Mr. Ross stressed.

The Palestinians, for example, "are going to have to see that the IDF (Israeli army) withdraws. They are going to have to see the Palestinians begin to assume real responsibilities — the responsibility of self-government... They are going to have a sense they are taking charge. They are going to have to see Palestinian leaders coming in and delivering on the promise of a different kind of future."

The Israelis, too, must see positive changes come from the agreement with the Palesti-

nians, Mr. Ross stressed: "The Israelis are going to have to see that Palestinians live up to the commitments that they make. That they assume responsibility, especially when it comes to violence, that they do everything they can to stop it and when it takes place, to condemn it."

Above all, the Israelis need to see that their "security does not suffer," once the declaration is implemented, Mr. Ross said.

If these kinds of changes take place and "new realities" emerge, then the parties can "compete far more effectively" with extremists, Mr. Ross said.

At the same time, progress on the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations alone is insufficient to "discredit and isolate" extremism: "There also has to be progress on the other tracks... if in fact you are going to ensure a kind of irreversibility in the peace process."

Mr. Ross opined that while the Israel-Jordan track has "moved somewhat slowly," the talks have indeed progressed: "What has evolved in the Israeli-Jordanian negotiation has been in effect a kind of step-by-step, incremental kind of progress." Thus, in addition to the common agenda initiated last September, Israel and Jordan have worked out agreements on banking, environmental problems that are common to both countries, and a sub-agenda on energy and water, he said.

On the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, Mr. Ross said the change in format from talks between full delegations to talks with just the heads of delegations had not generated any breakthroughs, but have nevertheless improved the character of the discussions.

The discussions between Syrian and Israeli negotiators are now more flexible and problem-solving in nature, he said.

This improved format, coupled with positive statements on peace made by President Assad and Prime Minister Rabin, have created "some basis of hope that we will, in fact, make real progress, this year, on an agreement, between Syria and Israel," Mr. Ross said.

Mr. Ross stressed that an important corollary to pushing for progress in the bilateral negotiations is the need for Arab states to make positive overtures towards Israel.

"It is also important that the Arab World reach out to Israel," he underscored. Positive moves towards Israel by Arab states will help convince the Israeli public that there is indeed "an historic opportunity that must not be lost," and give Israeli leaders the political space needed to reach agreements, he said.

While there has been some positive movement in this regard, such as Qatar's discussions with Israel on a natural gas deal, Mr. Ross said "we have not seen the Arabs prepared to make any moves in a legal and de jure sense on the boycott" of Israel.

Commenting on the U.S. role in the peace process, Mr. Ross said the United States is going to "work for progress in the negotiations, and also to try to generate Arab states' reaching out to Israelis."

"We are going to keep at it. That is what is motivating us — the potential that should not be lost, an opportunity that should not be lost," Mr. Ross concluded — USA.

Kurds said to hand in video on copter downing

ANKARA (Agencies) — Iraqi Kurds said on Wednesday they had handed over a video recording of the shooting down of two American helicopters by U.S. fighters over northern Iraq.

"Some local commanders were touring the area when they happened to hear the helicopters," the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP)'s Ankara-based spokesman Saifeddin Dizaayee said.

"They had some camera equipment and started filming and recorded the whole incident," he said.

Mr. Dizaayee said a copy of the video had been handed to the allied Military Coordination Centre (MCC) in the Iraqi border town of Zakho within 24 hours of the incident.

The MCC, most of whose staff were killed in last Thursday's mistaken identity attack, is responsible for liaison between Iraqi Kurdish leaders and the allied air force patrolling a "no-fly" zone in northern Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war.

But a U.S. military spokesman at Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, where the allied fighters are based, said he knew nothing of any such video.

"We deny any knowledge of this video and if it did exist, it would become the property of the investigating team," said Captain William Shaver.

Mr. Dizaayee said the Kurdish team that filmed the attack was led by the KDP commander for the Aqr region, General Ali Osman. They also filmed wreckage at the spot where one helicopter crashed, killed its 12 occupants.

Mr. Dizaayee said he had not seen the video himself. A 15-strong U.S. military team is at Incirlik investigating the circumstances of the attack in which two U.S. F-15 fighters shot down two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters, killing 26 people.

Among the dead were 15 Americans, five Kurds, three Turks, two Britons and a Frenchman.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry said last week that investigators are trying to determine if the airborne warning and control (AWACS) plane in charge of the operation had radio contact with the helicopters and warplanes, and if identification devices were working.

The remains of all the 15 Americans killed in the incident were returned to American soil Tuesday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gulf Air starting in-flight phone system

MANAMA (R) — The regional carrier Gulf Air has equipped its new Airbus 340s with in-flight telephones, the Bahrain-based airline said on Tuesday. The first of the six new A340s arrives in Oman on May 18, and the airline said two phone channels would be available to passengers in all classes. This would expand to six channels in the near future. The airline was also evaluating fitting its entire Boeing 767 fleet with phones. "This will make Gulf Air a leading airline in in-flight telephone facilities," it said. The service would soon be extended to include fax facilities, it added.

Syria, South Africa discuss establishing ties

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria and South Africa on Tuesday discussed the possibility of establishing diplomatic relations after decades of acrimony, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported. It said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa discussed the issue with a visiting South African Foreign Ministry official, identified as Derek Williams. Syria and the rest of the Arab World had long refused to have any dealings with South Africa, which maintains close relations with Israel. But ties have been gradually improving since the abolishment of apartheid and the launching of the Arab-Israeli peace process 2½ years ago.

Algerian president meets Saddam envoy

TUNIS (R) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual on Tuesday met a senior advisor to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, the official Algerian AFS news agency said. AFS, monitored in Tunis, gave no further details about the meeting between Mr. Zeroual and Barzan Al Takriti. President Saddam has been sending envoys to Arab countries to try to win support for Baghdad's efforts to get the United Nations to ease or lift sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

U.S. Cyprus envoy leaving amid deadlock

NICOSIA (R) — Robert Lamb, U.S. coordinator for Cyprus, is leaving his post amid indications the latest talks to make a dent in the island's division have deadlocked. U.S. diplomats told Reuters on Tuesday Mr. Lamb's resignation would be officially announced by the State Department and he was leaving for personal reasons. They were surprised Cyprus President Glafos Clerides made the resignation public in remarks to reporters on Sunday. Mr. Lamb, eager to see an agreement on a U.N.-proposed package of confidence-building measures between the rival Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus, made lightning visits to the island trying to push the process forward. But Western diplomats feel the talks to make a break in the near 20-year division of Cyprus are stalemated. The U.N. Security Council has called for an accord on the package before the end of April.

Sudan fills top Parliament posts

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military ruler Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has appointed three politicians to top jobs in the unelected parliament, the Transitional National Assembly. The decree, read on state television on Tuesday, said Angelo Bada, a former governor of Equatoria state, was appointed deputy speaker while Ahmad Abdul Halim and John Angol were made leaders in the assembly. Mr. Bada replaced Aldo Ajo who last January left for Britain where he joined the National Democratic Alliance, an opposition group trying to topple the Bashir government. Mr. Abdul Halim replaces Abdul Gassim Ibrahim Mohammed who was appointed governor of Kassala state last February. Mr. Angol takes over from Reverend Andrew Wieu who resigned in March to devote his time to church activities.

Farhat refuses to give up fight for justice for Kuwaiti atrocities despite severe problems

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A Lebanese-American on a crusade to secure justice for his father, brother and sister victimised in post-crises Kuwait has run to serious personal troubles, but has vowed not to give up his three-year-old struggle against the government of the emirate.

Naim Farhat, whose father Ismail and brother Osama were shot dead and sister Naimat was raped and shot in the head by a former Kuwaiti police officer in the early days of March 1991, is facing the possible loss of his home in Santa Cruz, California, over unpaid hospital bills for his sister.

The municipal court of California in San Mateo County has put a "lien" on Mr. Farhat's home in a ruling favouring Mills Peninsula Hospitals Corporation, which is seeking \$18,249 in unpaid bills for Miss Farhat.

Miss Farhat, now 35, was brought to the U.S. in critical condition after the attack in Kuwait. She survived her head wounds, after surgery at the Mills Peninsula Hospitals Corporation, but is partially paralysed for life.

A "lien" against a property means the first step towards recovering debts through disposing it off.

Mr. Farhat says he had spent all his funds pursuing the case against the government of Kuwait which he accuses of giving the order "for the execution" of his family.

He estimated that his costs so far had been nearly \$500,000, including communications charges alone costing \$100,000 in his pursuit of enlisting the support of human rights organisations, lawyers, governments, congressmen and the media.

Following the serving of the lien, Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times, "my wife took off saying she could not bear it anymore. The tension and stress were too much for her over the past three years."

Mr. Farhat has left no door unknocked in his campaign. "The stresses inflicted upon myself and my family as a result of the Kuwaiti government's crimes against us are immeasurable," Mr. Farhat said in a recent appeal to the U.S. Congress.

There is no worldly measure that can compensate for the loss of my beloved father and dear brother, or bring any comfort whatsoever for the serious physical and emotional injuries sustained by my sister."

Mr. Farhat's call on the American lawmakers comes amid indications that a Kuwaiti appeals court is poised to reduce the life sentence handed down to the former police officer who was found guilty of killing Mr. Farhat's father and brother and attempting to murder his sister.

The Kuwaiti state security court which tried the case cleared the defendant, Jaber Al Omairi, of a charge of raping Ms. Farhat in the March 2, 1991, incident at the Farhat residence in Kuwait. The case is one of the well-known affairs in the Gulf but the only publicised one involving human rights abuse by Kuwaitis following the Gulf war.

"If the Kuwaiti justice system were to fully investigate and prosecute all the guilty parties involved in the Kuwaiti government crimes against the Farhat family, I feel confident that the trail of guilt would lead to the highest levels in the government of Kuwait," Mr. Farhat told U.S. lawmakers in the letter, a copy of which was sent to every member of Congress.

International human rights organisations and lawyers unions have ridiculed the Kuwaiti justice system for ignoring key evidence in the case and passing down a watered-down verdict and sentence.

According to sources in Kuwait, Mr. Omairi has appealed the sentence and all indications are that the prison sentence will be reduced when the appeals court rules later this month.

Against the background of that possibility, Mr. Farhat is seeking:

"Full justice: All guilty parties to the crimes against the Farhat family be tried, convicted and sentenced to the fullest extent of the law."

"Appropriate reparations be paid to the Farhat family, consistent with judgements in similar international human rights cases."

"The Kuwaiti government pay costs of removal, transport and burial in Lebanon of the remains of Ismail Farhat and Osama Farhat."

"Immediate release of all Farhat properties and moneys that still remain in Kuwait or under Kuwaiti government control to the Farhat family."

"An end to human rights crimes in Kuwait and let justice be served and compensation made to all past victims of Kuwaiti government crimes."

"A formal, written, public apology from the Kuwaiti government to the Farhat family for that government's crimes against us."

"I'll never rest until my family gets justice," Mr. Farhat told the Jordan Times in a recent telephone conversation. "I will press our case, even if that means begging for a dollar to send one extra fax to someone who can help secure justice."

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Jordan Times
Tel. 667171

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

12:30 TELEVISION TWO

13:00 Terrence

13:30 News in French

14:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 13:30)

14:30 News in English

15:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 14:30)

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16:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 15:30)

16:30 News in English

17:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 16:30)

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220:30 News in English

221:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 220:30)

221:30 News in French

222:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 221:30)

222:30 News in English

223:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 222:30)

223:30 News in French

224:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 223:30)

224:30 News in English

225:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 224:30)

225:30 News in French

226:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 225:30)

226:30 News in English

227:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 226:30)

227:30 News in French

228:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 227:30)

228:30 News in English

229:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 228:30)

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235:30 News in French

236:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 235:30)

236:30 News in English

237:00 *Le Monde* (Continued from 236:30)

237:30 News in French

238:00

Majali bans smoking in public buildings

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday issued circulars banning smoking in government offices, urging reduction in electric power consumption, and requesting lists of government-owned vehicles to help in controlling their utilisation for official business.

Dr. Majali also issued a statement announcing the formation of Jordan's delegation to the 49th meeting of the committee preparing educational programmes broadcast via radio and television to the students in Israeli-occupied

Arab territories.

The prime minister also Wednesday visited the Amman Municipality and expressed deep satisfaction with the measures taken there to promote services to the area's citizens.

Dr. Majali was briefed by Amman Mayor Mamdouh Al Abbadi on plans for developing the central regions of Jordan which include the governorates of Amman, Balqa and Zarqa.

The mayor also briefed the prime minister on the new plans which, he said, would be

implemented in cooperation with the municipalities in the three governorates.

He said support from the prime minister to the municipality would give momentum to the new plans.

In addition Wednesday, Dr. Majali visited the Foreign Ministry and discussed with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Hassan Jordan's current endeavours to promote relations with foreign countries and measures to safeguard Jordanian citizens' interests abroad.

Minister encourages private sector to take up role in boosting tourism

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Privatisation is the key to strengthening tourism in Jordan to make it the country's most powerful economic revenue, said Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan on Wednesday.

"The private sector assumes a leading role in developing tourism in the country and the government is working on eliminating its (the private sector's) inhibitions caused by distrust in legislation and lack of organisation," said Dr. Adwan in a meeting with several tourism industry businesspersons.

The minister told the group that Jordan has to utilise its "over 100,000 attraction sites" and make use of the country's "great fortunes," adding that the area is now recovering from the fallback of tourism that resulted from the Gulf war. He said that we have to equip ourselves to be able to meet with the present and future flow of tourists to the country.

Dr. Adwan said that the Ministry of Tourism is currently studying the Tourism Law, which he admitted, suffers from many lapses. He said the ministry plans to introduce articles that will improve the law and make the process of privatisation easier.

The ministry had introduced a draft agreement to privatise Royal Jordanian Airlines (RJ), which has been submitted for

debate to the Lower House of Parliament. The minister made assurances that many institutions will be privatised over the next two years, which, he said, gives the private sector the opportunity to help develop the country's economy and become part of Jordan's economic development plan.

According to Dr. Adwan, a new tourism draft law is needed, but amending the present legislation is the first step forward. He also urged the private sector to introduce proposals towards amending the law's articles.

"We have to work on eliminating the predominance of personal interests of different institutions, whether public or private, concerning the development of tourism," said the minister, stressing the need for cooperation between the government and the private sector to achieve the desired results. "Healthy competition secures national interests, and personal conflicts are harmful to all," he concluded.

Participants expressed their general disapproval of the country's poor tourism facilities, saying that many improvements in services are required. The minister said the reason behind inadequate services in the area of facilities lies behind the ministry's limited budget, adding that the private sector's financial contribution was necessary.

Dr. Adwan said that if the peace process succeeds, Jordan

will become a major attraction for tourists, but that the development of the industry in the country was not contingent upon the results of the peace talks and that Jordan is a strong and stable country that has proved its ability to stand up to all challenges. "We have nothing to fear, we are stronger than Israel," said the minister.

Fakhri Tawal, one of the attendees, said that the Marriott's gross sales amount to \$7 million annually, and that such an amount proves the availability of financial assets in the country. Commenting in response, the minister said that it was hard to convince some people that money spent is money earned.

Dr. Adwan said that he was very optimistic about the development of tourism in Jordan and added that if both the private and the public sectors utilise Jordan's resources properly, tourism will assume the leading role in the country's economic growth.

The lunch meeting, held at the Regency Palace Hotel, was organised by Skat Club in Amman. Skat is an international movement represented by Skat Clubs in 91 countries. The club's objectives are to develop "true friendship and common purpose among members of the tourism industry, as well as promoting mutual understanding and fostering goodwill between the peoples of the world through tourism."

University students protest blockade of Aqaba

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Students at the University of Jordan Wednesday staged a peaceful protest against the continuing blockade of Aqaba and demanded that the U.S. apply the same standards in implementing U.N. resolutions.

The protesters also demanded that Jordan, which has suspended formal participation in the Arab-Israeli peace process pending a solution to the siege of its Red Sea port, withdraw from the peace process altogether.

Nearly 500 students, about half of them young women, took part in the one-hour rally within the campus of the University organised by the Students Council.

Organisers put the number at more than 1,000 and said all shades of political thoughts among the students were represented in the rally. But it was clear that the Islamic bloc, which scored an overwhelming victory in student elections last month, dominated the event.

It was the first rally in the Kingdom after His Majesty King Hussein said last month Jordan's return to the 29-month-old Arab-Israeli peace talks sponsored by the U.S.

and Russia hinged on an end to the damaging sea-based inspections of all Aqaba-bound vessels by the U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea.

The warships are enforcing the international sanctions against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But Jordanian importers and exporters are suffering severely from the costly delays caused by diversion of freighters to other ports.

"No to American double standards in applying U.N. resolutions," "No to American piracy in the Red Sea," "No to Rabin's threats against Jordan," and "We will not succumb to pressure," were some of the slogans chanted by the students, who held aloft portraits of King Hussein and the late King Abdullah and Jordanian flags.

At the head of the rally were leaders of the Students Council. Most of the female students wore the veil while many of the male protesters held the Holy Koran.

The main theme of the protesters was that the U.S. was applying double standards in the Middle East. They assailed Washington saying that it was very enthusiastic to rigorously enforce

the U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq while dozens of Security Council resolutions calling for Israeli compliance remained unimplemented.

The protesters demanded that it was not enough that Jordan had suspended its peace negotiations with Israel but should withdraw from the peace process completely.

Bassam Al Amoush, an Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputy from Zarqa, said in an address to the students that the U.S., "the leader of the new world order..." was deliberately targeting Jordan for pressure.

In a television interview after the rally, Mr. Amoush said Jordan was abiding by the sanctions against Iraq and the continued inspection of Aqaba-bound ships was unjustified.

He scoffed at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's threats against Jordan over the presence of members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and said Israel was seeking to divert attention from its failure to handle the resistance put up by the group.

Ship diverted

As Wednesday's protest took place, shipping agents



University of Jordan students Wednesday stage protest against siege on Aqaba (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

said a ship carrying Canadian newsprint and unprocessed paper for Jordanian importers was diverted to the Saudi port of Jeddah.

Daoud Kutab of International Freight Services, agents of the Ikan-Seelyang, said the vessel would return to the Tiran Straits after unloading Saudi-bound cargo and rearranging its holds so that the inspectors could check for any violations of the sanctions against Iraq.

Mr. Kutab estimated that the delay and diversion of the ship would cost the importers an extra \$20 per tonne; a loss of \$80,000 for the 4,000 tonnes of paper cargo for Jordan.

On Tuesday, the inspectors stopped another ship carrying nearly 500 tonnes of mostly containerised cargo for Jordan and loose crates containing tractor spare parts for Iraq. The inspectors ruled that the U.N. Sanctions Committee approval for the spare parts carried by the Monifzko was outdated.

"However, they subsequently agreed that the cargo could be allowed in, but it was too late by then," said a shipping source. "The owner of the ship had already given orders to the captain to head for Port Suez to unload the cargo for Iraq."

Blaze kills 2 in restaurant

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two people were killed and a fireman was injured Tuesday morning in a fire that burned down a new restaurant which had just opened to business that day in Amman, according to police and Civil Defence Department (CDD) reports.

The CDD official said the blaze started when oil in a falafel cooker caught fire and spilled over onto the rubber base of a gas cylinder connected to a stove in the Jawahar Nour Restaurant in Jabal Amman's First Circle.

According to the CDD official, the fire spread, and one of the workers, Hazem Al Masri, a 30-year-old Egyptian, was killed because he panicked and sought refuge in the loft of the restaurant, which later was consumed in flames.

The second victim, Ghaleb Mobammad, a 38-year-old Jordanian who thought his son was in the loft entered the area and was trapped by the flames, the official said.

He said Mr. Mobammad's son had taken refuge in the refrigerator of the restaurant and was saved by a CDD rescue team.

A police official told the Jordan Times that the deceased were burned beyond recognition and the restaurant equipment was completely destroyed.

The CDD official said both the boy and a fireman who suffered minor burns were listed in good condition.

Observers skeptical of humanitarian direction of AOHR

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Arab Organisation of Human Rights (AOHR), Jordan branch, is meeting on Friday to decide upon the organisation's future policy, but observers of the AOHR's performance are skeptical about Friday's meeting and say that the organisation could become more of a political body than a national humanitarian organisation.

"After reviewing the list of names of (the AOHR) new members, I have regretfully noticed that an urgent campaign was arranged by a certain political party to join the organisation," said Suleiman Sbeih in a letter addressed to members of the AOHR's administrative committee.

The organisation's establishment in 1989 in Jordan was one of the first manifestations of democracy in the country.

But Jordan's newly-founded

branch of the AOHR had witnessed many internal conflicts within its committees and among its members.

These conflicts were most intense between the AOHR's general assembly and its administrative committee. At the organisation's annual assessment meeting last year, the general assembly criticised the performance of the administrative committee, particularly what it saw as the panel's silence over certain human rights abuses and its incapability to pressure the government on many such issues.

In the AOHR annual report, the administrative committee concluded that the organisation's poor performance was due to many reasons; it said that the organisation's budget was very limited especially that some members fail to pay membership fees on time. The report added that there was a general attitude of indifference about human rights issues

among the AOHR members, which prompted the administrative committee to entertain the idea of recruiting new members to the organisation.

Controversy has risen over the nature of the new recruits, which some members accuse are predominantly highly politicised figures who plan to use the AOHR as a means for realising political ambitions.

According to AOHR member Suleiman Sweis, such developments negate the AOHR's primary role as being a national human rights organisation made up of different sectors of society.

In his letter, Dr. Sweis, who is also a member of the administrative committee, expressed his disapproval of the committee's decision to take up a "very politically oriented" new members when the organisation is near holding its elections.

"How do we explain this sudden awakening (on the

organisation's part) to the need for new members," questioned Dr. Sweis in his letter. He added that he was not against people's participation in voluntary work in the organisation as, he explained, it is a prerogative of every human rights activist to be positively involved in constructive social work. Dr. Sweis said that he, however, was against using the AOHR as a means for dedicating what he described as harmful traditions that conflict with the interest of Jordan's campaign to secure human rights.

The human rights activist concluded his letter by saying that while he does not oppose political parties' rights in promoting human rights through their work, he nevertheless is "holding tight" to the AOHR's "independence, democracy and neutral stand towards political parties to ensure positive progress in the organisation's activities."

37 teenagers recover from food poisoning

By Ella Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — All 37 teenage students from Masharee in the north Jordan Valley who Tuesday suffered a mild form of food poisoning were discharged from hospital Wednesday morning and are back at school, according to Health Minister Abdul Rabih Malhas.

The 37 girls, reported to have been complaining of nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea, were treated at Abi Obaida Hospital in the Wadi Al Yabes. They were dis-

charged after being placed under observation for six hours, the minister told the Jordan Times Wednesday.

The girls had eaten canned meat which was not properly cooked and the excessively hot weather contributed to the girls' ailments, said Dr. Malhas. The canned meat is an item in the Ministry of Education's school food programme and was a gift to the ministry from non-governmental organisations that have been providing food assistance to the Kingdom's children, said the minister.

He said the canned food had

been tested by the health ministry laboratories upon receipt and was found to be safe. He added that the ministry has sent a team to the school to examine the case and accurately determine the reason for the food poisoning.

Dr. Malhas said the ministry's laboratories are conducting additional tests on samples of the same canned meat and imposing stricter control over the school food programme to prevent any recurrence of the food poisoning incident.

Dr. Najar Bani Hani, the hospital director, said all the students are back at school.

Railway theft

Police are searching for a suspect/suspects who reported to stole 77 metal bridges, and 12 rail pieces from railway tracks Tuesday on the desert railway to Saad Sultan area near Karak, a police report said.

An employee at the railway station told police that when he went to check the railway he discovered that the bridges and metal pieces had been dismantled from the track with blow torches.

An official at the railway headquarters in Amman told the Jordan Times this was not the first such incident. "We have had similar cases from time to time, but this is the first time robbers escape with this number of bridges," the official said.

What is unfortunate, he added, is that the railway traffic will be hindered for some time until railway track experts replace the stolen parts on the track.

"Luckily we have spare parts in our warehouse, but it will take some time before rail service would resume," the official said.

"This kind of metal could be sold or used for building purposes, and each tonne of metal is worth more than JD300."

WHAT'S GOING ON

BALLET

★ Ballet performance (Swan Lake, Bolero, Romeo and Juliet) at the main theatre of the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday and Friday at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Education System in Palestine" by Dr. Hassan Al Karmi at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

★ Seminar entitled: "The Clinton Administration and its Real Position Toward the Arab-Israeli Dispute" with the participation of Dr. Nasser Arouri and Dr. Mohamed Al Hallaj at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman on Friday at 6:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

★ Trip to Khirbet adh-Dharir between Karak and Tafilah organised by the Friends of Archaeology. Departure will be from the Amra Hotel parking lot on Friday at 9:00 a.m. by bus.

VIDEO FILM

★ Video film in English on artist "Marc Chagall" (accompanied by a commentary in Arabic by Dr. Khalid Khreis) at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

★ "Spring Exhibition" of Jordanian industrial products at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 847113).

★ American Promotion Week '94 at the Amman International Motor Show, Airport Highway (12:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).

★ Exhibition by artist Mustafa Al Hallaj at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 687598).

★ Art exhibition by artist Latifa Youssef at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition by artists Alla Ammoura, Dorothy Mango, Hind Naser, Janine Saaf, Lucy Mario, Tete Wegelius at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).

★ Exhibition of calligraphy at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Paintings exhibition by Jordanian and Lebanese artists Jamal Khamis and Jehad Abu Suleiman at Alia Art Gallery (9:30 - 13:30, 15:00-18:00) (Tel. 639383).

★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Fincemin at the French Cultural Centre.

Heat wave to continue till Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The current heat wave is expected to continue until Friday evening when western winds should affect the east Mediterranean region causing the temperatures to drop noticeably, said a spokesperson for the Department of Meteorology Wednesday.

Jamal Al Moussa told the Jordan Times that the heat wave over the past few days was caused by hot and dry winds blowing towards Jordan from the deserts of Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The khamisnie weather which caused sandstorms in the south and eastern parts of Jordan are expected to recede at the weekend, with temperatures dropping back to normal for this time of the year, said Mr. Moussa.

Temperatures which soared to 36°C Wednesday would remain about constant Thursday, he said.

Mr. Moussa said the humid winds expected Saturday would cause a drop of at least 10 degrees in temperature.



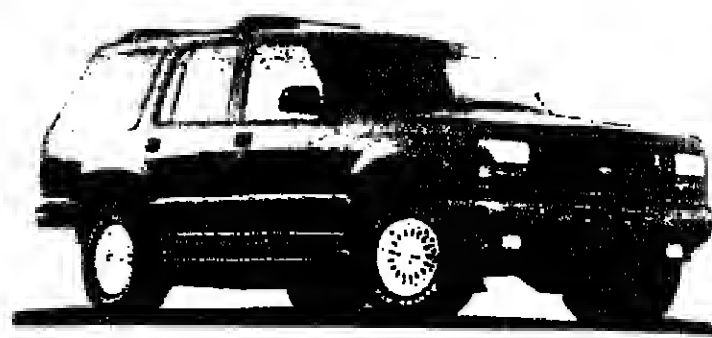
The Alumni Club of the Ahliyyah School for Girls have the pleasure to invite you all to its annual reception. Miss Margaret Kid will be our guest of honour on Saturday April 23, 1994, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ahliyyah School for Girls

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Who bails out the Iraqi people

By Mohammad Mashariqah

The Iraqi regime and people seem to wield a special charming effect on Jordanian culture and cultural activities. This is clearly manifested in their direct influence on the political and cultural way of thinking of a large number of intellectuals, artists and writers in Jordan.

It has even been said that Jordanian intellectuals have contributed towards encouraging the Iraqi regime to pursue its excesses in matters related to democracy and human rights.

The Iraqi regime and its controlled media have been continually quoting Jordanian writings and articles which extend due support for Iraqi policies and practices on the internal and external fronts.

An observer of Jordanian intellectuals who produce superficial cultural work considers them as being no more than riff raff demagogues who place such topics as human rights, freedom and democracy at the bottom of their lists of priorities. Such writers normally express unlimited and unreserved support for the Iraqi regime and all its practices under the pretext of showing their enmity towards the "Zionist-imperialist" West. They normally regard critics of the Iraqi undemocratic regime as agents in the pay of the West and working for the Americans.

This closed-mindedness has characterised many of the Jordanian intellectuals whose voices drown those that call for reasoning and rationality and those who advocate the cause of pluralism, democracy and human rights. The voices of reason have thus been isolated and secluded in the face of intellectual intimidation vis-a-vis the onslaught of some intellectuals who are of the idea that one could either be for Iraq and all its policies or for the West and its arrogance.

The fact that thousands of Iraqi intellectuals have escaped to Jordan from that repressive regime and the silent moans expressing the catastrophe that befell the Iraqi people, culture and dream at the hands of the Iraqi regime seemed to have changed nothing in the stand of Iraqi supporters here.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

Neither had the great works by Iraqi artists and painters, which expressed the true dimensions of the human tragedy that befell their nation and the internal destruction and loss of hope, drawn these intellectuals' attention.

The Iraqi art works displayed in Jordan had reflected the deep feeling of frustration, fear, repression, martyrdom and isolation — all expressing pain and a cry for help — but were misinterpreted by Jordanian critics and

intellectuals, who looked at them as some shade of abstract art or a childhood nostalgia.

One of these critics has described an exhibition by Iraqi artist Sadek Kawish as a new presentation of historical events standing out as a symbol of challenge and confrontation.

Last week, the Jordan Popular Theatre invited an Iraqi theatre group to perform at the Royal Cultural Centre.

The play entitled *The Bail* was produced by Abdul Karim Al Sudani and directed by Sami Abdul Hamid who had created a new trend in Iraqi theatre work in the 1950s with Yousef Sayegh through their modern theatre group.

In *The Bail*, which was basically classified as popular satire, the actors dared to reflect the producer's deep philosophical thinking, especially in matters that revolve around the transformations inside the human being and the effects of war on his behaviour and conduct.

The play reveals these changes in a person who is imprisoned without any justification and spends 25 years of his life in jail. When the time comes for him to be released he is asked to provide a bail and a guarantor so that he would be freed from his cell. But he discovers that everything and everybody has changed and that none of his old friends is willing to provide the bail to the court so he can be discharged.

In this manner, the play seeks to expose the realities

in the Iraqi society which has suffered a great deal from wars and "free adventures" that adversely affected its human values stripping man from his humanitarian feelings.

When the jailer tries to persuade the prisoner's family to sign the bail document to ensure the discharge, the whole household pervades with an atmosphere of extreme horror.

The prisoner's girl friend, who, he believes, is still waiting for him, denies she knows the man because she has been transformed, through the influence of "the man in power" into a prostitute running a brothel.

The prisoner discovers that his friend, the intellectual and philosopher, has been locked in a lunatic asylum and finds him delivering a lecture in philosophy to a collection of shoes and pitchers and pots. He also discovers his cousin, who has become a senior official, unable to remember him because he is lost in his work amid telephone calls, the voices of his advisers and the great many orders he issues here and there.

The whole group of actors then burst out shouting: "Who can rescue the Iraqi people and who can bail them out of this terrible jail where they have been incarcerated without any cause or committing any crime or offence... Who can rescue society from destruction and disintegration and fear, and who can reestablish the original laws of nature?"

The play was performed for more than 10 days in Amman but the audience was a restricted number of intellectuals and critics, as reported by the popular theatre director Fathi Abdul Rahman.

In Abdul Rahman's view, the highest irony came in the reactions to the play by the critics, who were confined themselves to the technical aspects in directing the play and the play's satirical nature.

A critic, whispering in the ear of the director Sami Abdul Hamid, accused him of presenting a performance that was considered an offence to Iraq and its people who live through very difficult circumstances.

It looked as though the Jordanian intellectuals have expressed their determination to forge the facts by boycotting this daring performance which has truly demonstrated the bitter realities which were expressed by Iraqi artists themselves.

Schindlers List: Don't they see ghosts?

By Mariam M. Shakin

THE recent ban on the screening of the movie *Schindler's List* in Jordan has created a heated debate about freedom of information and cultural interaction in the Kingdom.

Granted that most of the on-going discussions about the merits of showing or not showing the movie have taken place in the living rooms of the upper class and the intelligentsia, a debate about the merits of getting to know "the other" has finally begun.

Instead of asking whether the movie should or should not be shown in Jordan, I would rather like to ask if *Schindler's List* is really just about "the other" — i.e.: merely a story about Jewish suffering as interpreted by director/producer Steven Spielberg?

The vast majority of Jordanians and Palestinians that I have talked to have brandished *Schindler's List*, as nothing more than another attempt to stir up the guilt feelings of the West over its treatment of Jews generally and during the Holocaust particularly. This, argue most people, has little to do with the Arab-Muslim World where Jews, by and large, lived in relative harmony for most of their history.

Most people, justifiably, argue that the Arabs should not pay for Western racism against Jews and that the displacement of the Palestinians and the creation of Israel came about as a direct result of European persecution of Jews — Theodor Herzl, himself believed so.

The release of *Schindler's List* coincided with the Hebron Massacre. It also coincided with the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. With this in mind many Arabs ask why past crimes against humanity are still being reem-

phasised as if they occurred yesterday while on-going crimes are treated merely as "news".

A few scenes from *Schindler's List*, however, show how, if looked at through an unfiltered eye, the movie is about the present as well as the past — about all people. About Jewish suffering and Jewish crimes.

One of the opening lines in the movie shows a middle class Jewish woman filing a complaint against the Nazis for having been thrown out of her home. "They told me it was no longer my home — they said it now belongs to an SS officer," she tells a bureaucrat at the Jewish Information Bureau. The bureaucrat, a fellow Jew conscientiously fills out a form of complaint.

While my eyes may be filtered, I saw in this scene the story of thousands of Palestinians that I know who were evicted, chased or scared out of their homes — never to be able to return — their homes are now someone else's.

In another scene, the belongings of Polish Jews, their suitcases, their heirlooms and their photographs are sifted through and evaluated by the Nazis after their owners were sent off to the concentration camps.

Again I saw the furniture, the cutlery, the worldly belongings of Palestinians left behind and taken by others. But here the takers were Jews not Nazis, who "just moved in."

In yet another scene well-to-do Jews are herded into camps with other less fortunate compatriots. In their camps or ghettos they become equals — only shadows of their former selves. Teachers and learned men and women become factory workers. As a group or race the Jews are forbidden from owning land or investing.

How many of us have listened for hours as refugees tell us of the wealth and prosperity they had left behind

to become numbers in refugee camps — not concentration camps granted — but camps nevertheless? How often have we heard how Palestinians all over the Arab World and of course those left behind in their homeland cannot buy land, invest directly or be equal to others?

Watching *Schindler's List* is a moving experience about what could be the fate of any people anywhere in a totalitarian environment where racism reigns supreme. In 1994 we live these scenes everyday. The "desired" concepts and methods of ethnic cleansing and a racially pure environment have not really changed.

In *Schindler's List* I saw what anyone growing up in the Judeo-Christian West has seen all their lives — the reminder of the suffering of Jews during the Nazi era. But I also saw something much closer and more contemporary — legitimised and institutionalised racism and ethnic cleansing in Palestine, Bosnia and South Africa to name just a few.

For Arabs it is important to see *Schindler's List* to remind them that their own suffering at the hands of Israel and others is not exclusive. For Israelis with any insight the sight of refugee camps will remind them of the ghetto; the racist law, "for Jews only", will remind them of the signs that said "no Jews allowed", the brutality of many of their clean cut soldiers and some of their moral guides should remind them of the Aryans who tried to destroy the Jews for being "less worthy", or "less chosen" than themselves.

And for all those living in what Israelis call "beautiful old Arab houses", *Schindler's List* should be a reminder of the ghosts one sees when living in someone else's home.

Mariam M. Shakin is on the staff of the Jordan Times.

In Kentucky's tobacco country, old ways die hard

By Vicky O'Bannon
Reuter

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky — Ray Allan Mackey grows tobacco in south-central Kentucky with his father, who worked the same land and grew the same crop — as did his father before him.

Old habits die hard in tobacco country. More than 34 per cent of Kentucky's teenagers smoke, compared to a U.S. average of just under 12 per cent. They also use snuff and chewing tobacco at a rate seven times the national average.

But new ideas are sprouting in the country's second largest tobacco-growing state, where more than 78,000 farms grow tobacco across the green-tinged

countryside.

School children in Louisville are coming home with textbooks teaching them in blunt detail about the death and disease associated with smoking. The product and the habit are under attack as never before.

In Washington, more curbs on cigarette smoking — perhaps even a ban — are being discussed. A television network has alleged that one manufacturer "spiked" tobacco products to increase nicotine dependence — a charge the company denied.

A great deal of money is at stake. Federal, state and local governments collect more than \$12 billion a year in excise taxes on tobacco — roughly four times the

annual farm value of the U.S. crop.

For people like the Mackeys, tobacco is a way of life that begins in spring with the back-breaking hand setting of tender plants and ends in aromatic autumn auctions. Like many of their neighbours they grow tobacco along with wheat, corn, beans, beef and pork.

In 1993 that patchwork of farms produced 29 per cent of the U.S. tobacco crop. "Everybody has a tobacco crop and a few cows and hogs," said the younger Mackey. "Per acre, tobacco returns more than any other crop," he said.

"It was one of seven children and my entire family went to the tobacco market together. Most of us bad

taken part, one way or another, in crop preparation," he recalled.

"At the end of the year a lot of folks are looking for extra Christmas money. Taxes, land and property payments and the end-of-the-year bills all come due about the same time the tobacco check comes in."

The U.S. government decides how much tobacco is grown, based on how much the companies say they intend to buy. Quotas were cut by 10 per cent each for the 1993 and 1994 growing seasons.

"The decision is not whether we're going to grow tobacco but who will grow and who will produce it and how they will be rewarded," Mr. Mackey

said. "Will they continue to be under the scrutiny of the public because they are raising a crop that is said to be harmful?"

The latter is a question he cannot answer.

But for 11-year-old Alicia Sellers, coming home from school in Louisville, the questions get asked to her father Ernest, 47, a 30-year smoker.

"I don't want my kids to start smoking. My daughter asked me to try and quit and I am going to do that... I'm going to work at it," he said.

His daughter, like other parochial school children in Louisville, uses a programme called "the unpuddles" developed by the University of Minnesota and designed

to instill in fifth graders the hazards of smoking through a textbook filled with adventure stories and games.

The Louisville school system, the state's largest public school district, also plans to use the programme.

A recent U.S. surgeon general's report on smoking called it an "adolescent addiction" that usually begins around the age of 14. Now the lifestyle followed for generations by people like the Mackeys could be altered not only by public pressure against cigarette smoking but even by school officials in their own state who think they have a chance to break the cycle before a new smoker takes the first puff.

Cigarettes are reportedly made with hazardous chemicals

WASHINGTON (R) — Among the 700 ingredients used to make cigarettes are 13 chemicals that are deemed too dangerous to be used in foods, National Public Radio has reported.

The radio report said five of the chemicals are listed as hazardous, and one causes convulsions in animals. Another ingredient, ammonia, can irritate the skin, eyes and respiratory tract.

The Tobacco Institute, the industry umbrella organisation, said all cigarette ingredients were thoroughly reviewed by industry and outside scientists. "At the level used, the ingredients

do not pose health risks to smokers," it said.

It said that a list of commonly used cigarette ingredients, as well as information about those ingredients, has been routinely given to the government for over a decade.

But it said the list was confidential and it could not confirm the presence of any particular substance on the list.

Department of Health and Human Services spokesman Victor Zonana also said he could neither confirm nor deny the National Public Radio (NPR) report since the government was barred by law

from revealing ingredients used in making cigarettes.

But he said the government believes, regardless of the ingredients involved, "cigarettes are hazardous to health."

The tobacco industry has come under sharp scrutiny recently after allegations that cigarette makers manipulate nicotine levels to keep smokers addicted. The cigarette makers have denied such accusations, and Philip Morris filed a libel suit against ABC for its recent report on the topic.

Under a long-standing agreement with the tobacco industry eager to protect trade secrets, the government has kept secret a list of

the ingredients used to make cigarettes.

NPR said it had obtained a list of 13 ingredients on the 1992 list, the most current version, and analysed them with the help of outside experts and scientific databases.

It identified one chemical, methoprene, as a pesticide used to kill insects on stored tobacco and said another, sclareol, can react with other chemicals to produce convulsions.

Because they are not regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the cigarette makers can use those ingredients.

NPR said some of the chemicals were extremely obscure, and it was not known at what doses they could be harmful to humans.

The report quoted Congressman Ron Wyden, a Democrat of Oregon, as saying, "cigarettes contain ingredients so toxic that you could not dump them in a landfill under the federal environmental laws."

Toxicologist Barry Rumack said, "what we do not know with these chemicals is... what their concentration is in the final product, and we additionally don't know what combination of these chemicals

are in that final product... We do not know what the effects would be on a human being."

But toxicology consultant John Frawley, who has done work for tobacco companies, told NPR he has studied cigarette ingredients exhaustively and concluded "each and every one of the ingredients that are added to cigarettes are safe."

NPR said other experts criticised the secrecy of the list, and called for public research and scrutiny. A congressional panel, led by California Democrat Henry Waxman, is also looking into the secrecy issue.

BOOK REVIEW

The 'rhetoric of political discourse'

For Palestine

Edited By Jay Murphy

Writers And Readers Publishing, New York 1993

Unashamedly partisan in its approach, this book starts with a chronology which traces the history of Palestine in outline from the arrival of the Ottoman Turks in the 16th century and follows it with a very uneven collection of articles, interviews, poems, stories and statistics which, in their diversity, reflect the fragmentation of Palestinian opinion and objectives. The useful notes and bibliography make it clear that most, if not all, of the material has been previously published elsewhere.

Among the familiar contributors are Edward Said, protesting in a 1991 interview against the bias of Western opinion in any context involving the Palestinians; Hanan Ashrawi, explaining the difficulty of negotiating as part of a team which has no governmental support or standing; Noam Chomsky, in an interview with Jay Murphy in which he is highly critical of American official attitudes, as contrasted with public opinion, towards the Palestine problem ("for years the population [of the U.S.] has been two-to-one in favour of a Palestinian state, but that has no reflection whatever in the political system; in fact there is no expression of that view"), and in a closely argued "Afterword", in which he exposes the hypocrisy of the language in which American policy is expressed.

To understand what is going on, writes Chomsky, we must begin by "translating the rhetoric of political discourse into English": "rejectionists" means in fact those who reject U.S. demands; "Pragmatists" are those who reject the rights of the Palestinians — and so on. Chomsky goes on to list in compelling detail the successive occasions, from the Jarring mission in 1971 until the abortive "peace process" inaugurated in Madrid in 1991, on which the United States supported Israel in frustrating each attempt to devise a solution which would be acceptable to the Palestinians — even when it had overwhelming international approval.

The collection stops short of the Oslo Accords and so is unaffected by the short-lived breeze of optimism of last autumn. Most of the contributors deal in one way or another with the painful experiences of the Palestinians in a quarter of a century of occupation by a relentless enemy. In this context, one of the most effective essays is the one in which Nasser Aruri writes of "The Palestinians' Travails in the Last Decade", with particular reference to the Gulf War and its after-effects for the Palestinians. It is followed by a moving piece by Jean Genet titled "Four Hours In Shatila" and another on "The Siege Of Beirut", taken from an interview with a Palestinian woman by Hilton Obenzinger, the American editor of *Palestine Focus*.

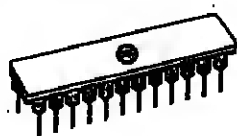
The book would be more interesting if the diversity of the authors reflected more differences in attitude and approach. In particular, it seems surprising that there are no Israeli contributors, especially now that so many have stood up to criticise the actions of their government. A few of them, like Danny Rubinstein and A.B. Yehoshua, are quoted by others, but the voices of such brave figures as Israel Shahak, Tom Segev, Boaz Evron and others like them are not recorded here. Even if they have had little effect in moderating Israeli attitudes towards the Palestinians, they deserve to be remembered for what they too have tried to do For Palestine — Middle East International.

Michael Adams

The do-it-yourself computer

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



More un-branded personal computers (PC) are being assembled in Jordan everyday. In addition to saving about 30 per cent of the initial cost, the buyer benefits from a configuration that is exactly tailored to his needs in terms. The operation is usually done by professionals.

The phenomenon has grown to the point that many amateur users now consider acquiring the separate components and doing the assembly themselves, at home. What attracts the amateurs in this case is not only the financial saving but also the experience, the pleasure and the added knowledge they can get from such an undertaking. Knowing exactly where the memory chips go, where the hard disk connector can be found, etc., brings great satisfaction to the technically oriented user.

To the question "Is assembling a PC a difficult task?" The answer is a straight "no. It is not." But to the question "Can anybody, with no technical background at all, do it?" the answer is also a clear "no." What are the different components to gather in view of assembling a PC and what does it exactly take to do it successfully?

The typical shopping list would include 12 items, the first nine being: The cabinet, or casing — the power supply unit — the mother board — the main processor chip — the memory chips — the multi Input/Output controller — the display controller — the floppy disk drives and last but not least, the hard disk drive. The last three items, namely the keyboard, the monitor or screen and the mouse, do not need to be assembled. They come ready to be used and connect very easily to the computer, like a cassette deck to an audio amplifier.

Choosing the correct above items can sometimes be a painful business. Let's assume for the sake of simplicity that the user has been past this stage and that the assembly itself can start now. The job requires very little knowledge of mechanics for every unit fits in prepared slots. A few screws is all it takes to secure everything in place.

The tricky part is the connection of the internal

cables. They are of two types: Power cables that channel electricity to the different units and data cables that channel the data. To facilitate the work, the connectors, whether electric or data, are well designed physically. They all have different sizes and are not symmetrical. In other words, you cannot connect a power cable instead of data cable, and vice versa of course. There is also no risk in mounting the connectors upside down since there is no symmetry in their physical construction.

There are still some chances left for mistakes. In the best case, your PC will run partially — or at all. In the worst, you can cause permanent damage to some components. Since electric power is involved, the risk of electrocution, like with any appliance, should not be taken lightly.

If the job doesn't scare you but you feel you do not have the necessary information to do it, ask around, chances are that someone you know has done it before you and will be more than happy to help and ... show how clever he has been. The operation should take less than two hours and the only tools you will need are a pair of screw drivers (one blade, and one Philips) and the simplest possible voltmeter.

Owning a PC you have assembled yourself is not only good for your ego but will make any future upgrade easier and cheaper. You need a bigger hard disk drive or a new CD-ROM drive? Just go to the nearest computer shop, buy the drive, get back home and install it in less than 15 minutes.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

HOWLERS

- Newspapers are useful for reporting calamities such as deaths, marriages, etc.
- A skyscraper is an over-trimmed hat; it is a large telescope.
- Etiquette is the noise you make when you sneeze.
- A fort is a place to put men in; a fortress is a place to put women in.
- Dust is mud with the juice squeezed out.
- Snoring is letting off sleep.
- Cheese is butter gone bad.
- A widow is a wife without a man.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

SIGNS AT THE AIRPORT

- Airport terminal: *Mujamma al matar.*
- Departures: *Rihlatul mughadara.*
- Arrivals: *Rihlatul wassool.*
- Entrance: *Dokhoof.*
- Exit: *Khoroof.*
- Airline offices: *Maktabat sharikat al tayar.*
- Information desk: *Maktabat al tamar.*
- Luggage: *Amd'a.*
- Police: *Al-shurta.*
- Passports: *Al-jawazat.*
- Customs: *Al-jamarek.*
- Lounge: *Al-fatraha.*
- Duty free shop: *Al-soukal harra.*
- Refreshments: *Murattibat.*
- Souvenirs: *Hadya thikarya.*
- Flights: *Ar-rihat.*
- Gate No. 7, 8, 10: *Bawwaba raqam sab'a, thamania, asbra.*
- Transit: *Al-ashroon.*
- Foreigners: *Al-ajanih.*
- Smoking is prohibited: *At-tadkheen mamnoo.*
- Way out: *At-tarraq il-kharaj.*
- Money exchangers: *Sarrafoon.*
- Banks: *Banook.*
- Mosque: *Masjid.*

TIME FOR FUN

- ★ Two boys camping out in a back-garden wanted to know the time, so they began singing at the tops of the voices. Eventually a neighbour threw open his window and shouted down at them:

"Hey! Less noise! Don't you know what the time is? It's three o'clock."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ A very grand lady made her very first visit to a post office. Previously one of her servants had always gone for her. But on this occasion curiosity got the better of her, and in she went to purchase a postage stamp. Gazing at the small gummed piece of paper she said haughtily to the clerk:

"Have I got to stick this on myself?"

"No, lady", came the reply. "You stick it on the envelope!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

- ★ A man just released from prison was so elated after five years behind bars that he ran down the street shouting, "I'm free!" and a small boy on the corner said, "So what — I'm four!"

- ★ Why did the stupid fall out of the window?

— He was trying to iron his curtains.

- ★ Do you know the quickest way to the station?

— Yes, run!

APPETIZING DISHES

STRAWBERRY CAKE

THINGS YOU NEED:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup maida
- 1 tsp milk
- 1 tsp butter

FOR DECORATION:

- 1 cup beaten cream
- 2 tsp castor sugar
- a few drops of vanilla essence
- a few strawberries

THINGS TO DO:

Beat the eggs and sugar until a frothy and which leaves a trail. Fold in sifted maida. Fold in milk and melted butter. Lightly butter inside of pan, dust with maida and line with paper. Pour batter into the pan. Place pan on a high rack in a steamer or in the pressure cooker. Steam over high heat, for 25-30 minutes. If steaming in the pressure cooker, do not put the weight on the cooker. Invert steamed cake on wire rack to cool. When cool, slice the cake into three layers. Whip the cream over each layer. Place halved strawberries over each layer. Place three layers one on top of another, garnish top with whipped cream and strawberries.

Now, your strawberry cake is ready!

PUZZLES

(A) GEOGRAPHICAL DUOGRAMS

1. ANSAL IS PROUD.
2. PALOS IS A VAIN GUY.
3. A RIPE VAULT

Each of the above consists of the names of two countries jumbled together.

Can you identify them?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

(B) MINDBENDER

Karen is aged ten and her mother is 31. They can both remember when Karen's mother was four times as old as Karen. How long ago was that?

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. Who was the British writer Eric Blair better known as?
2. Commercial TV was first seen in Britain in...
a- 1952
b- 1955
c- 1959
3. What was the nickname for the old two-shilling piece?
4. What flavour do we owe to an orchid?
5. What animal lives in a drey?

The Wizard of Oz

By E. Yaghi

Once a strange looking man came to a campus centred in the middle of olive trees and black dates. He, being poetic, insisted on delivering a lecture to linguistic students of the faculty of arts, near the ruins of an ancient temple which happened to be a short distance from the university. He sat upon a tumbled column of the bygone days of antique splendor and as the wind from the north played chaos with his hair, tried in vain to settle the blonde and gray curls that tended to go every which way. At first some students who thought themselves versed in the dress of Ozian people almost laughed when the Wizard appeared, for indeed, he did look different from them. On the other hand, Wizard almost laughed too, but not quite, for he, being wise, possessed a universal tolerance knowing that each culture is entitled to have its own identity even if a lot of it is borrowed.

The students gathered around Dr. Wizard and sat on the wild grass that spread itself carpet like throughout the area. Nearby, some lavender wind flowers nodded their heads as the mystic man spoke of strange yet wonderful things. "I have come," said he, "to speak to you about linguistics and in particular about an essence called discourse."

He picked up a dry olive branch and walked over to a cracked stretch of ground where using the twig as a pen drew pictures in the dirt. And as he drew, he began to tell his audience about all the magical ways of those people who lived in isolated Gilead villages and how their lives were not only unique but better than the lives of the city dwellers. "City dwellers," he stated in his mild yet phonetically clear tone, "have done away with cooperating and helping each other and have become like the Ozians, competitive. Go to your villages in the north and south and there you will find the secret of living, for these communities are small and each man's existence depends on his fellow man. You city dwellers have adopted the competitiveness of Ozians and have become fragmented. Individualism is good up to a certain point but when being individual means only to get ahead in the world by stepping on the heads of others, then the process of fragmentation sets in."

A few students ignored Dr. Wizard, but most sat perfectly still, forgetting about his strange dress and appearance, immersed in his speech. The clear blue sky of Gilead hung like a pastel umbrella over the beads of

the congregation and the pale yellow orb of a sun gently radiated warmth. Some sea gulls soared overhead and then grouped themselves in the shape of an arrow and then away perhaps towards Oz. Dr. Wizard continued his discussion saying, "at the university, you speak a different dialect than you do at home. And at the university, you act differently too. Often, you use your education as a means of confrontation through competition. You must remember that when you imitate the people of Oz, you also adopt their problems. In the land of Oz, there are many big cities, technically advanced, but there is little cooperation among the people so as a result, there is a lot of poverty, because each man is out for himself and cares little about the welfare of others. You, my friends, can use your education in two ways: either as a means of getting ahead and competing or as a means of helping and improving your country. It is up to you to decide."

The olive branch fell to the ground while Dr. Wizard's hazel eyes penetrated deep into his audience. Not a creature stirred, not even the honey bees or crickets, not even a field mouse. Even the windflowers stood at attention. The youth almost looked hypnotised until Dr. Wizard concluded his speech with, "Tomorrow, my chariot is taking me back to Oz. But really, I've had the nicest visit. Remember, what impressed me most was not your imitation of Ozians, but your close-knit families, your concern for one another and your love of children. Don't be so eager to change and cherish the good things you have."

A messenger approached him bearing a silver chalice of red mulberry ale. Dr. Wizard accepted the drink and swiftly gulped down the beverage in two or three swallows, then he clutched his little black headpiece that looked like an elf's hat, pulled it on over his gray and blonde curls, said to the pondering students a "farewell, nice talking to you," took one last look at his surroundings and turned and left the tumbled ancient ruins, slowly marching over the same road that conquering armies once had driven their men and steeds. He vanished forever when he climbed over the crest of Solomon's Temple. Some thought they spied a distant flutter of winged horses rising up to the clouds. After waiting a few moments as if he would return, the students of linguistics in the land of Gilead trudged back to their other lectures thinking about what Wizard had said and puzzling over what he meant about individuality, competition and fragmentation.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, April 21

7:45 Gillette World Sports Special

8:30 Da Beat's On

9:10 Bouy

Take The Money

A stripper is hired by a bank robber to assist in an operation; before long, the robber learns she is in London with a suitcase full of stolen money.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie of the week

The Last Bastion

The historical events following the German entry into Poland in 1939, which was followed by Britain and Australia entering the war... and we witness General MacArthur's arrival in Australia to lead the allied forces.

Friday, April 22

8:00 Shby Minutes

9:10 Scene Of The Crime

To Make Amends

One-half of a twin sister fakes her own death in a car accident in order to implicate a man she had loved for years, and who had rejected her.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Black Powder

Abu Adel reaches a compromise which gets him back to work; and Abu Salma is forced to leave his land, despite his objections.

Saturday, April 23

7:45 Charlie Chaplin

A programme featuring some of Chaplin's best silent movies.

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

Day Damn One

William amuses the kids by telling them stories about his crazy days back at Bel-Air Academy.

9:00 One To One

9:30 The Campbells

Face Of A Stranger

Unexplained calamities befall the families and their cattle. The strange phenomena are blamed on a spell, put on by an outcast, named Sarah.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Making The Case For Murder

The Howard Beach Story

Starring: William Daniels, Joe Morton and Bruce Young

Sunday, April 24

8:30 You Bet Your Life

For increasing your general knowledge, and for some laughs, be sure to tune in every Sunday at 8:30 for this entertaining quiz show with Bill Cosby.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Black Powder

Abu Adel reaches a compromise which gets him back to work; and Abu Salma is forced to leave his land, despite his objections.

Tuesday, April 26

7:45 Charlie Chaplin

A programme featuring some of Chaplin's best silent movies.

8:30 The Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air

Day Damn One

William amuses the kids by telling them stories about his crazy days back at Bel-Air Academy.

9:00 One To One

9:30 The Campbells

Face Of A Stranger

Unexplained calamities befall the families and their cattle. The strange phenomena are blamed on a spell, put on by an outcast, named Sarah.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Making The Case For Murder

The Howard Beach Story

Starring: William Daniels, Joe Morton and Bruce Young

Monday, April 25

7:45 Science World

8:30 The Nanny

Maggie's father agrees that she goes out on a date with Eddie, on condition that the nanny chaperons them.

8:55 Jordanesque

Churches In Jordan

A comprehensive look at the start of Christianity in Jordan. Jordanesque is hosted by Jerus Samawi.

9:10 Pandora's Box

The Engineers Plot

10:00 News In English

10:20 Black Powder

Abu Tawfik, makes an engagement announcement while he receives a proposal to which he answers a negatively.

11:10 Top Cops

7:45 Medicinal Drugs

8:30 Step By Step

Way-Off Broadway

Dana tries herself in acting in school; Carol and Frank quarrel over "major" things: Who does the most lying?

8:55 Documentary — Beyond 2000

9:10 Moon Over Miami

Farewell My Lovelies

Walter and Gwen come across a man with a strange hobby: Carrying too many different names, and marrying too many wives.

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Cape Rebel

11:10 The Second Half

Same Bet Next Year

John is in the spotlight, and gossips surround him as he is seen in the company of a beautiful young woman.

Wednesday, April 27

7:45 Great Moments In Science and Technology

8:30 Too Close For Comfort

An innocent kiss from a sweet young girl that lies on Henry's face sets Murrell on fire.

9:05 The Best Of Magic

9:30 The World Of The Thirties

The Stalin era in the former Soviet Union; he rules with absolute power, applying his reform programme which requires compulsory employment. To the Soviets those were times of terror.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Poldark

Elizabeth yearns to go back to Ross following her husband's betrayal; but Ross is worried about Demilza's pregnancy; could he be the father of her baby?



Verdi biography gives new details of romantic life

By Daniel J. Wakin
The Associated Press

ROME — A major new biography of Giuseppe Verdi has resuscitated the breath of scandal surrounding the composer's private life.

Verdi: A biography, by Mary Jane Phillips-Matz, seems to suggest that the great man's mistress bore him an out-of-wedlock child.

That has ruffled feathers in Verdi's hometown of Busseto and among scholars in Italy, even though the author pointedly says there is absolutely no proof Verdi was the father.

"Then why make up this story? Why plant a bug in the ear?" said Gustavo Marchesi, a Verdi scholar in

Parma.

Mayor Giorgio Cavatelli of Busseto, a town of 7,000 people near Parma, said reports about the book produced a "certain perplexity" among the townsfolk. "It's like a father hearing his daughter is pregnant from the newspaper," he said.

The director of the National Institute For Verdi Studies, Pierluigi Petrolini, called the biography "scandal-mongering" in a newspaper interview.

Ms. Phillips-Matz sounds bitter that attention has focused on a tiny section of a 941-page tome that was 30 years in the making.

"I think it is a grave, grave injustice (to Verdi) to dwell on these two or three pages. It is also an injustice

to me," the author said in a recent telephone interview from New York.

"You have a man who is a colossus of the theatre, a deputy in the first Italian parliament, a senator, a leader of copyright reform," a generous donor to charity, and a major figure in the Risorgimento, she said.

"All that I can wish is that he be remembered for these things."

Published last fall by Oxford University Press, the biography received prominent and generally favourable reviews in the New York Times, Newsday and the New Republic, among other publications.

Reviewers praised Ms. Phillips-Matz for scrupulous research, objectivity and

command of a sea of material, while noting a reluctance to interpret her sources or explore the relationship between Verdi's life and music.

The book sheds new light on matters such as Verdi's circle, early life in Busseto, ancestry and career as a politician and philanthropist.

It "is bound to have an impact on our understanding of the life as well as the music that is at the heart of the contemporary operatic repertoire," New York Times critic Edward Rothstein wrote.

And virtually all who have commented about the out-of-wedlock child episode have expressed admiration for Ms. Phillips-Matz's research and accom-

plishment.

Verdi's relationship with soprano Giuseppina Strepponi began several years after Verdi's first wife and two children died, and the couple eventually married.

The author has found documents that a baby girl named Santa Strepponi was left at a hospital in Cremona in April 1851. Ms. Phillips-Matz cites the following to support the theory the child was Strepponi's.

There is the similarity of names. Strepponi had a past of bearing and abandoning illegitimate children. The child was adopted by long-time acquaintances of the Verdi family. Verdi's fame and attitudes of the time precluded his acknowledging any such child.

Verdi's "complete contempt" for the scandal-wag-

ging tongues of Busseto and his strong desire to have a daughter after the earlier tragedy argue against the theory, said Julian Budden, whose three-volume The Operas Of Verdi is considered a classic.

He also cites a letter to Verdi written by Strepponi in 1853: "We will not have children (since God perhaps is punishing me for my sins by preventing me from enjoying any legitimate joy before I die)." Ms. Phillips-Matz also quotes the line.

Marchesi said it was unlikely that only a month after giving birth, Strepponi would have taken a long, difficult journey to Florence, as she did.

Ms. Phillips-Matz places her suggestion about Santa Strepponi in the context of a series of difficulties for Ver-

di that created a "siege mentality" — a feud with his father, the scornful gossip of his fellow Bussetans and breaches with friends. "It is not surprising that the composer felt as if he had been drained of half of his blood, as he confided to (librettist Francesco Piave) just 20 days before Santa Strepponi was left in the turnstile of the Cremona Hospital," she writes.

In keeping with her scope, the author provides little connection between these events and Verdi's music.

But Rothstein, the music critic, goes further. "In fact, a major stylistic change may have accompanied Verdi's personal crisis of the early 1850s," he wrote in his review. The operas of that period,



Giuseppe Verdi

Rigolotto, La Traviata and Il Trovatore are among the political dramas Verdi wrote in the 1850s, but none of them, confirmed by Roth-



Steven Seagal

On Deadly Ground focuses on the environment

Steven Seagal stresses human responsibility to nature

By Cho Yoon-Jung

So much attention is focused on action star Steven Seagal's martial arts prowess that it is easy to forget his latest film, On Deadly Ground, is actually about the environment.

Set in Alaska, it is the story of the Eskimos and the damage done to their environment when an oil company moves in to start drilling. Seagal plays Forest Taft, an oil rig worker who learns of his company's plans to despoil the landscape and joins the native Inuit people in their protest.

The film called for blizzards, explosions, oil fires, dogsleds and horse chases. It was a high risk project in

which Seagal did all his own stunts except one explosion scene.

"The real story of the movie is about human beings and their responsibility to each other and to Mother Nature," Seagal said at a news conference in Seoul. "We need to stop destroying the planet before we reach the point where it becomes irreversible. It is a subject very important to me."

It was a subject so important to him that Seagal was motivated to direct and produce the movie himself, as well as star in it, of course. He explained, "I didn't want anyone to whitewash the subject or mess it up."

Seagal says that the roles of actor, director and producer were not in conflict and did not present any problems as he is used to having a lot of control over any project he works on.

Seagal's debut as a director has been a triumph with On Deadly Ground, co-starring Michael Caine and Joan Chen, currently at the top of the box-office charts in the United States. It is set for release in Korea this April and he is particularly keen to see it do well in Asia, where he has many fans.

Asia is the centre of the martial arts, which are as close to his heart as the environment. Standing over 6 feet and hair in his habi-

tual ponytail, Seagal does not look anything like the typical petite martial arts master. His skill has been amply demonstrated, however, in such films as Hard To Kill and Under Siege.

Seagal's fascination with martial arts began at the age of seven and led him eventually to Japan where he spent 15 years mastering the art of aikido and going on to become the only non-Asian to establish his own school in Tokyo.

For him, it is much more than a sport. "It is a spiritual thing which gives me an advantage in terms of developing discipline and skills applicable to my everyday life and ambitions,"

he said.

It has also led to an interest in the other arts of Asia including the healing arts and fine arts. Through his many visits to Korea while living in Japan, he has become familiar with native martial arts taekwondo and hapkido, as well as Korea's paintings, sculptures and ceramics.

This summer Seagal will have a new interest in Korea. Theme eating comes to town this September when the Seoul branch of Planet Hollywood opens. Seagal has a business interest in the restaurant and officially announced the project at a reception at the Grand Hyatt Hotel last week.

Planet Hollywood is a family restaurant inspired by the world of film. The interior is designed to resemble a movie set, handprints of stars adorn the walls, and the stars in the flesh adorn the seats. At least, they do in New York and Hollywood. The owners are three of Seagal's action star contemporaries — Bruce Willis, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Sylvester Stallone — and producer of Sophie's Choice Keith Barish.

The Seoul operation is a joint venture with local movie company Samho Film and will feature Korean film memorabilia and Korean films on video — Korea Newsreview.

By Susan Zeidler
Reuters

Record producer recreates Beatles sound for film

NEW YORK — When faced with the job of recreating the music of the early Beatles for a new film about the fab four, eclectic record producer Don Was sought the advice of a renowned expert on the subject — Ringo Starr.

"Ringo's advice was 'don't try to sound like the Beatles because the Beatles didn't even sound like the Beatles then,'" Was recalled in a recent telephone interview with Reuters from his Los Angeles studio. "They (Beatles) were 19-year-old kids who hadn't really developed technically

into what they would later become," said Was, who has produced Grammy-winning albums for singer Bonnie Raitt and the B-52s band and has worked with dozens of other stars including Ringo Starr.

In fact, Gramercy Pictures' Backbeat does not feature songs written by the Beatles. It details the early days of the fab four before they became the Beatles.

The film, to be released early April, features rock'n'roll songs covered by the Beatles in Hamburg in 1961, when they were not yet performing their own

music, was explained. Backbeat focuses on Stu Sutcliffe, who was John Lennon's best friend and the Beatles' original bass player.

Sutcliffe died in 1962 after leaving the group. Ringo himself was a spectator — not a band member — in 1961.

Was heeded Ringo's advice while producing the soundtrack and the result is a record which captures the raw spirit, rather than the exact sound of the developing Beatles.

"To try to duplicate the Beatles exactly would have

been a mistake. You'd have something that is the opposite to the essence of rock'n'roll. It would be very studied and controlled," he said.

The soundtrack, released by Virgin Records in March, includes golden oldies covered by the Beatles which include Long Tall Sally, Bad Boy, Twist And Shout and Good Golly Miss Molly.

To attain the spontaneity of the young Beatles, Was, one of the most diverse and respected producers in the music business, recruited musicians from top rock

bands who had never before recorded together.

"We got a few musicians who hadn't really played or recorded together before and put some serious time constraints on ourselves, just to keep it spontaneous," he said.

"We tried to go with the first few takes and not work them to death."

Members of the Backbeat band include Dave Grohl from Nirvana on drums, Mike Mills from R.E.M. on bass and back-up vocals, and guitarists Thurston Moore and Don Fleming from Sonic Youth and

Gumball, respectively.

The Afghan Whigs' Greg Dulli sings John Lennon's parts on nine songs; while soul asylum's Dave Finer sings McCartney's vocals on three songs.

In addition to the rock soundtrack, Was produced a second jazz album for the film which captures the early "bebop" sound of the 1960s associated with the Beatnik art scene.

Was himself plays bass on this record along with other jazz musicians Terence Blanchard on trumpet, Eric Reed on piano and Jimmie Wood on harmonica.

Was — who originally reached fame in the 1980s with his innovative band Was (not was), which made several hits including walk the dinosaur — is popping up everywhere in the music business these days.

The native of Detroit just produced the new Bonnie Raitt album, released this month, and has been working on a new album with the Rolling Stones, due out this summer.

"For the past five months, I've been in the studio six days a week with the stones," said Was.

Was expects the new

stones album to be a hit. "They're masters of the rock'n'roll idiom. They're the very best at what they do. They're the only people who can take 20 years of growth, continue to expand at what they do and get better."

Was also has upcoming records with country and western stars Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson.

Following these projects, Was has been enlisted to direct — a new endeavour — a documentary on Brian Wilson for a BBC series called Omnibus.

Is it time for a rest then? Not a chance. Was plans to produce his own record.

Mondriaan exhibition shows roots of abstract style

By Kristin Kranenberg
Reuters

AMSTERDAM — Piet Mondriaan's paintings of red, yellow and blue blocks created a revolution in modern art in the 1920s and are still copied around the world on posters, mugs, T-shirts and even shampoo bottles.

For those who have always wondered where his instantly recognisable abstract rectangles came from, an exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of his death has found some clues.

It shows that, before adopting his characteristic style, the Dutch painter honed his skills by picturing his home country's landscape.

More than 60 paintings are on show, mostly of Amsterdam industrial sites and rural surroundings between the years 1892 and 1912 when Mondriaan lived in the Dutch capital.

Mondriaan arrived there at the age of 20 to study at the State Academy of Arts and left 20 years later to live in London, Paris and New York.

The organisers of the exhibition, which has become convinced that Mondriaan's Amsterdam output foreshadowed features of his later

abstract work. By setting clearly delineated farm houses and boats against a simple background he gave the impression of focus on form and geometry rather than seeking the picturesque.

Around 1900 Mondriaan is seeking a way not only to display but also a clear ordering in his painting," says Boudevijn Bakker, head of the exhibition organisers.

"The conclusion seems justified that there is a link from the earlier to the later work," he adds.

Mondriaan, especially favoured two rivers in the Amsterdam area, the Amstel and the Gein.

Often a river bank neatly divides a picture in two, while the water accurately reflects what is seen ashore.

For American art historian Robert Welsh, the reflection of a gable-roofed house in House At The Gein from 1900 resembles the diamond form seen in later abstract Mondriaan works.

Welsh, who helped set up the exhibition, spent years making an inventory of Mondriaan's Amsterdam paintings and drawings. More than 600 of these have survived.

"His development has

been very consistent. I have not fully figured out yet if he was conscious of this or not," he says.

Mondriaan often portrayed the same object several times.

The exhibition shows two paintings of a wax candle plant made around 1900. And two of the four versions Mondriaan is known to have made of a colossal dredger are on display.

Gradually Mondriaan began experimenting with bright colours and styles such as pointillism. In 1908 he painted The Mill Near Abcoude in colourful little dots.

"I realised nature's colours cannot be reproduced on the canvas. Instinctively I felt I had to find a new way of painting to express nature's beauty," Mondriaan was quoted as saying.

Another venture in form was seen with Tiger-Lily and Amaryllis (both 1910), each magnificent flower pictured against a blue background.

In all the paintings on display, Bakker says he has counted only three living creatures — one person and two cows.

"One often gets the impression that he would rather wait until everybody

had gone home or until Sunday morning," he says.

Half of the pictures at the exhibition, which lasts until May 15, are from private collections.

The exhibition also aims to shed more light on Mondriaan's social life in Amsterdam, which had been shrouded by his solitary reputation and a lack of documentary evidence.

"Mondriaan never spoke about the past. He threw away all letters and lived for the future," Bakker said.

The exhibition is housed in a former town hall, set on the bank of Mondriaan's favourite Amstel River.

Other events in the Dutch Mondriaan year include an exhibition this autumn on Bart Van Der Leek (1876-1958). Van Der Leek, like Mondriaan, was a member of the De Stijl Artistic Group which focused on austerity of expression.

The final part of the Mondriaan commemoration is a comprehensive exhibition of the painter's works in the Hague's Municipal Museum from December. From April 1995 it will travel to the United States, to the National Gallery of Art in Washington and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

By Samantha Conti
Reuters

ROME — Paolo Bulgari, Italy's most famous jeweller, wears a plastic watch.

Far from a run of the mill timepiece with zebra stripes or polka dots, the \$300 black and gold wrist watch is Bulgari's own creation and his latest sales scheme to beat the recession.

"I knew putting the Bulgari name on plastic was a little risky," said the silver-haired artist whose jewellery sells for up to \$3.2 million a creation.

"But then I thought 'who cares?' If I worried all the time about what people were going to think or say, I'd never do anything new," he told Reuters at his company's understated, wood panelled headquarters in Rome.

Bulgari, 56, who plants diamonds on the throats and fingers of the world's richest women, said appealing to price-conscious consumers as well had been key to his group's success over the past year.

In 1993, as Italy struggled through its worst recession since World War II and a huge corruption scandal that has ushered in an era of austerity, Bulgari's turnover soared.

Overall sales hit 250 billion lire (\$156 million), up 60 per cent on 1992, when they had fallen by six per cent.

Francesco Trapani, group managing director and Paolo Bulgari's nephew, said introducing reasonably-priced jewellery and perfumes and expanding the business outside Italy had helped ward off the chill of hard times.

In addition to the watch, the black plastic rim of which is engraved with the Bulgari name, the company unveiled a gold ring set with semi-precious stones which costs about \$1,000 — a bargain compared to most of the gems in Bulgari store windows.

Earlier this year the group launched its second scent, Bulgari, which sells for about \$90 a bottle — an average price for a good perfume.

"Seeing a small price tag connected with such a big name was a shock," said Gianni Battistoni, head of the Traders' Association of Via Dei Condotti, Rome's most exclusive shopping street and the site of Bulgari's main showroom.

"But Paolo knows what he's doing. He has the ability to be both near-sighted

and far-sighted when it comes to business strategies. He has an honest, no-nonsense approach to business."

Paolo Bulgari said counterfeit Bulgari jewellery — often sold at half the price — had also been a key to his success.

"Imitations are good for business because it means people like what we're making. The fact that people are making copies forces us to be more creative, to come up with new collections."

Bulgari's unpretentious attitude to business spills over into his personal life. As wealthy Italians go, he is an anomaly. He said he does not own a portable cellular telephone — Italy's essential status symbol — a boat, or a private plane.

In a country that values titles, where educated or respected people are called "donore", Bulgari prefers to be called Signor Paolo.

"I'm not a college graduate, and so what? I'm an artisan, a very good one," said Bulgari, who joined the family business when he was 19 and became its president in 1984.

Bulgari is the grandson of Sotirio Bulgari, a Greek silversmith who emigrated to Italy in the late 19th century

and opened his shop on Via Dei Condotti in 1905.

His sons, who learned to work with gold and precious stones, expanded the business in 1970, opening branches in New York, Geneva, Monte Carlo and Paris.

The group, which has 31 stores in Europe, the United States and the Far East, plans to open seven more shops this year.

Paolo Bulgari, the house's chief designer, often mixes gold with precious or semi-precious gems. One of his trademarks is the "gancio" (hook) — stubby, interlocking golden links which form earrings, bracelets and necklaces.

His eldest child Irene, 29, who has just joined the company, is starting out as a business trainee.

"There's no preferential treatment here for people like me," she said at a party to celebrate the launch of the company's new scent. "I've started at the bottom."

Bulgari said hard economic times have never scared him.

"I don't want to stop. I don't want to think about not being successful," he said. "I just want to look ahead."

Immune trait may increase risk for cervical cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Women who inherit a certain immune trait may be more likely to develop cervical cancer after being infected with human papillomavirus, a researcher said.

The finding — that some women's immune systems fight the virus better than others — might be useful eventually in working on a vaccine against cervical cancer, said Raymond Apple, senior scientist in the Department of Human Genetics at Roche Molecular

Systems, said.

Researchers have already linked human papillomavirus 16 (HPV16) to cervical cancer.

"Now it appears that the development of cervical cancer depends on the way an individual's immune system responds to an HPV16 infection," said Dr. Apple. He presented his findings at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research here.

Roche Molecular Sys-

tems, based in Alameda, Calif., is a subsidiary of Swiss drug company Hoffmann-La Roche, but Dr. Apple said the research was not linked to the development of any drug by the company.

Tissue samples from 318 Hispanic women, some with cancer and some healthy, were analysed by the scientists. Hispanic women have a high incidence of cervical cancer, Dr. Apple said.

Scientists found that a

woman's HLA type — the protein signature on certain white blood cells responsible for organ transplant rejection — determined whether they are at increased risk for cervical cancer after being infected with HPV16.

"Our findings suggest that certain HLA types increase risk for cervical cancer by as much as five times, while other HLA types appear to confer resistance to cervical cancer," Dr. Apple said.

While further studies were needed, the finding could ultimately be used in looking at vaccines against cervical cancer, he said.

"Vaccines might be a distant goal for the HPV viral community... by looking at women who seem to mount a successful response against the virus, we can then go on and look at what this successful response is..." he told a news conference.

Separately, researchers

from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) said it may be possible to genetically determine which cancer tumours will be resistant to radiation treatment.

This would be valuable information for decisions on treatment for patients suffering from head and neck cancers, for example, where a choice could be made between surgery and radiation.

The scientists made the

finding after a preliminary study of cell cultures originally derived from lung tumours.

"If the findings hold up, the test could be applied in a clinical setting relatively rapidly, with cells from biopsy samples examined for the presence or absence of these genetic alterations," Michael Christman, UCSF assistant professor of radiation oncology, said.

Prof. Christman and another researcher used a

new technique to highlight excess or missing DNA fragments along the gene-bearing chromosomes contained in a human cell.

One region of Chromosome 1 was found to contain an unusually large number of copies of a certain DNA segment in half the cancer cell cultures that were not killed by radiation treatment, but in none of the cancer cell cultures that were vulnerable to radiation.

'Metabolism may make blacks prone to cancer'

By Adrian Croft
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — Scientists presented research which they said helps to explain why black smokers are more likely to develop lung cancer than whites in the United States.

Researchers from the American Health Foundation, a private, non-profit research foundation, said their study of 56 healthy

smokers, 31 black and 25 white, suggested that blacks may be "metabolically predisposed" to develop lung cancer from smoking.

Previous studies have shown that the incidence of lung cancer among black men is about 50 per cent higher than in white men in the United States.

"We saw a difference between blacks and whites in their ability to detoxify a

lung carcinogen that is present in tobacco smoke," Stephen Hecht, director of research at the foundation, told Reuters.

"Whites were more able to detoxify this carcinogen than were blacks, this seems to go along with the epidemiologic findings that for a similar number of cigarettes smoked blacks are at higher risk for lung cancer than whites," he

said.

The findings were presented at the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research by John Richie, a researcher at the American Health Foundation.

The researchers said their results are particularly relevant because they said cigarette manufacturers are aggressively targeting blacks in their marketing

campaigns.

Dr. Hecht said the findings may enable scientists to develop a screening test where a sample of urine could be used to indicate a person's susceptibility to tobacco smoke carcinogens.

This could motivate people who are particularly susceptible to cancer to stop smoking, he said.

"I don't think we're that far from a screening test

like that," Dr. Hecht said.

Dr. Richie and his colleagues evaluated smokers for two metabolites of nicotine-derived nitrosamine-ketone (NNK) — a key tobacco-related carcinogen — that are excreted in urine.

These chemicals — NNAL and NNAL-Gluc — are the same chemicals measured in a previous study by the American Health

Foundation linking second-hand smoke to lung cancer.

NNAL is highly carcinogenic, inducing lung tumours in mice. NNAL-Gluc is thought by researchers to be the end result after NNAL is detoxified by the body. "Our hypothesis is that the higher the level of NNAL compared to NNAL-Gluc, the higher the risk," Dr. Richie said.

Dr. Hecht said the re-

searchers' results showed "statistically significant differences between blacks and whites in their ability to detoxify the carcinogen."

However, the scientists cautioned that more research is needed to put the findings on firmer ground.

They have now embarked on a larger study, involving 320 people, which is expected to be completed in one to two years.

Vaccine found 70% effective against skin cancer

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — A vaccine developed to treat a high-risk category of skin cancer patients has been found to be 70 per cent effective after three years of study, researchers said.

The researchers at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia said this result compared with 20 per cent effectiveness in patients treated with surgery only.

The results were presented by David Berd, of Jefferson's Division of Neoplastic Diseases, at the annual meeting of the American Association of Cancer Research.

The vaccine being tested at Jefferson is one of several types that have shown promise in recent years to treat melanoma, a skin cancer that is usually fatal in its advanced stages and whose incidence has doubled in the last decade.

Jefferson University said its vaccine is the first to show such significant results in preventing recurrence of melanoma, and could help set future directions for cancer research in all areas of cancer treatment.

Dr. Berd said the vaccine was used on a select group of patients who had malignant melanoma that had

spread to lymph nodes.

Following surgery to remove tumours, the patients were considered clinically disease-free, but Dr. Berd says 80 per cent to 90 per cent of these patients typically go on to develop additional tumours and die.

In the Jefferson study, 47 patients with stage 3 melanoma were given a vaccine formed from their own tumour cells, which were deactivated and coupled to the chemical dinitrophenyl (DNP).

The patients also received cyclophosphamide, a medication that is commonly used in cancer che-

motherapy and which has been shown to boost the body's immune response.

Results indicate that 60 per cent of patients given the DNP-melanoma vaccine were tumour-free at the three-year mark of the study. While another 10 per cent of the patients experienced a recurrence, they are now disease-free following the removal of their tumours, the university said.

By comparison, only 20 per cent of patients overall in the control group remained disease-free during that same time, it said.

Research holds promise for early breast cancer detection

By Richard Cole
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Scientists have found a potential breast cancer marker that offers hope for an inexpensive blood test to detect the disease much earlier than a mammogram, researchers said.

Zora Djuric, who reported the finding, cautioned that at least four more years of studies and trials are needed before such a test becomes available.

A way to measure DNA

damage in white blood cells caused by toxins called "oxygen free radicals" was discovered by Prof. Djuric and colleagues at Wayne State University in Detroit.

The damage was, on the mean, 40 per cent higher in newly diagnosed breast cancer patients than in women who showed no signs of the disease.

"They have something different in their blood... and we believe it shows up long before a mammogram would detect breast cancer," said Prof. Djuric, a professor of internal medi-

cine.

It's possible that the DNA damage can be detected with only a few cancer cells in the body, Prof. Djuric said.

"It's not a test yet, but we are hopeful it will be some day," she said in reporting the finding to the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research.

The American Cancer Society says 182,000 women are diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States each year, and 46,000 die.

Dr. Pelayo Correa, a professor of pathology at

Louisiana State University Medical Centre, said the finding is important.

"I think it does have promise," he said. "It's a new area (researchers) are looking into — trying to identify not only women who have tumours, but women who have a very high risk of developing tumours."

The discovery of DNA damage also may be linked to other cancers, and more research is necessary to tie it positively to breast cancer, said Dr. Correa, who wasn't involved in the research.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

NEAR EAST TOUR
By William Canine

ACROSS

1. Get lost
2. Phosphate, in England
3. 19th-century scheme
4. Caravan
5. Nobel Prize
6. Absorbed
7. Portuguese Cape
8. Outlandish
9. Famed confidant
10. Milestone
11. Jumpers
12. The line (clay)
13. Striver or divider
14. Vowel
15. Stumble
16. Temple site
17. Movie with Jordan and Ustinov
18. Towns

DOWN

1. Religious group
2. He went, for short
3. Tastes
4. Just as I thought
5. Author of cynical law
6. Desert beast
7. Chidrop
8. Spread out
9. Infuses
10. Sweeney
11. Holes
12. Lush place
13. "The — Love"
14. Aurora
15. Delinquent
16. Masterpiece
17. Narrow elevation
18. A Pym

Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Bold young man on a flying saucer once pretty girl riding horses and leading four horses around the ring.
2. Very rich Tokyo man often goes to Vegas for blackjack. It was Japan's economy but he was not.
3. Break news, as first meeting with highest Tibetan religious figure, burst out, "Well, hello, Dada!"
4. Good homemade food made fiddle for our government father.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. FE VHEQK JLQZS TFO STERJO PE GREPTK
F GPPTX KXGP, XECU TLEPK SPREZEG
EBCM F SU VCFMKR FRU CEJK YEEU
UZGSG. —By Ed Tolan

2. BLAH XPBK BMYA EMKAT EKECHD
LCY YERQQYHCQCHX LEGCD. PPT
TEQQAM Y MAGEDEDF BEY E FPD PQ
LSQQX KEQQ. —By Rita Salvato

3. EADDOPNZ QUC XCTZ PCDQ EGGTDD KAT
1HQHSEKIN ECGOETCCG GABD, "PETS"
EXCHIC. —By Ed Tolan

4. PUN WUZ DUMB: "MW LZ U DAUPLE BMAN.
MP M DAA PLE, M AUN MN." —By Frank N. Stein

Diagramless 17 x 17, By Don Johnson

ACROSS

1. E — Texas
2. Buffalo
3. Waterfront
4. Outcry
5. Commercial union
6. Hymn
7. Horseman's foot support
8. Mine
9. Felt
10. Bert and —

DOWN

1. City
2. Diary of —
3. Musical note
4. Mine
5. Prime's measures
6. No longer working: abbr.
7. Rainbow
8. White heron
9. Board game
10. Across Anderson

U.S. considers AIDS tests using oral, home devices

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — People may one day learn whether they have the AIDS virus without giving blood or even leaving home, using a new generation of tests now under U.S. government review.

The new tests would show infected people they have the killer virus. But those designed for home use also pose a unique problem: how to counsel the virus' victims if they never set foot in a clinic.

"All of us have been very cautious about this," said Wanda Jones, assistant science director for AIDS at the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But we're convinced if it's done right, there will be a benefit.

Currently, laboratories need vials of whole blood to test for HIV, the AIDS virus. Only specially trained workers can draw the blood, and the test costs up to \$75.

U.S. public clinics are overwhelmed. They expect 5 million requests for HIV tests this year, most repeats. Still, at least 40 per cent of the 1 million infected Americans have never been tested because of fear, ignorance or lack of access.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is reviewing two new types of HIV tests that claim to be quicker, cheaper and easier: An oral test and so-called home testing kits.

Epitope Inc.'s Orasure is a specially padded stick that, held between cheek and gum for two minutes, absorbs saliva and gum cells. The pad is put into a special container and sent to a lab, where it undergoes

the same test for HIV as does blood.

Like the blood test, the stick test would be administered at doctors' offices or clinics. Results could only be obtained during a followup visit.

CDC and company tests show it's as effective as using blood, and AIDS activists hail it as a way to test more people quickly, without the danger of handling infected blood. It could cost as little as \$20.

But the home kits are more controversial.

The CDC discovered several years ago that HIV could be detected in dried blood spots, and three companies now want to market that method for individual use.

People would prick a finger, place a spot of blood on special paper, attach the kit's unique identifying code and mail it to a lab. A phone call would get the results of the test bearing that ID number.

Unlike Orasure, which is nearing approval, the home kits are probably years away from drugstores. But they're already garnering criticism from AIDS activists and state health officials, who fear they'll give people devastating news without proper counseling.

"If they're alone, just talking on the telephone, how will they react?" asked Cornelius Baker of the National Association of People with AIDS.

"Once you say they're positive, they don't hear anything else," said Dr. James Pearson, Virginia's director of lab testing. "You really need some kind of personal, long-term relationship to get any message across."

There's also no way to assure the kits' quality, he

said.

Experts will discuss these concerns at a meeting this week at the CDC.

But at least two of the companies plan to provide basic AIDS information before revealing test results.

Counselors, not a recording, would tell the news, and infected people could get a referral for care near their homes.

"The whole point of these tests is to get people into the health care systems early," said Stephen Coonan, president of Coonan Clinical Laboratories.

"If they want to hang up the telephone, that's their choice," said Anonymous Test Services Inc. spokesman Kevin Johnson.

"There has to be another option for people to access HIV testing. People just aren't doing it because they have to talk to somebody face-to-face."

The third company, Direct Access Diagnostics, declined to discuss its test.

The CDC advised the companies on its own counseling methods. "We hear these anecdotal stories about people running out and killing themselves — the companies want to avoid that," Ms. Jones said.

People will use such tests, she added. A CDC survey found 20 per cent of Americans would prefer them to seeing a doctor. But they have to wait awhile, because the home kits just came under FDA scrutiny.

The agency, however, has studied Orasure for 33 months, and AIDS activists last week urged it to hurry approval.

"The bottom line is that Orasure can save lives," said Bill Freeman, executive director of Napwa, which plans to help rush the test to health workers in hard-hit areas.

ANSWERS

PUZZLE IT OUT

(A) GEOGRAPHICAL DUOGRAMS

1. POLAND - RUSSIA
2. SPAIN - YUGOSLAVIA
3. PERU - LATVIA

(B) MINDBENDER

— Three years ago.

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. George Orwell, author of 1984.
2. (b) 1955.
3. Florin.
4. Vanilla.
5. The Squirrel.

Christopher will carry 'proposals'

(Continued from page 1)

... of my tour," the U.S. secretary said, adding that he will discuss with him "problems with respect to the port of Jaba."

"We will continue working in Jordan on the bilateral negotiations and multilateral," Mr. Christopher said, adding that he believed that the situation (of negotiations) between Israel and Jordan "is promising."

He said that Israel and Jordan "continue to be in touch" and that he hoped that they would proceed to reach an economic agreement soon.

The secretary said he hoped that during his tour he would act as a "facilitator" to connect the parties to the Arab-Israeli negotiations to "pursue these talks with intensity."

He warned that the Middle East process "should not be allowed to become hostage to extremists" calling on the parties to the negotiations to understand that there will be painful compromises.

Pointing out that his tour of the Middle East "is rather a unique trip," he said his administration viewed its role as an honest broker and mediator.

"The U.S. has been entrusted by the parties to carry messages and information back and forth," Mr. Christopher said, adding that the U.S. sometimes "helps explain the messages but it is not our role

to formulate packages."

He was responding to a question by a Syrian reporter on whether the U.S. was making proposals to end the Syrian-Israeli deadlock.

Mr. Christopher said he felt that both Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad were "very serious about peace negotiations and determined to make progress."

Asked by another journalist from Damascus why there appeared to be progress only in the Palestinian-Israeli and not on the other tracks, the secretary said: "There are four bilateral tracks to the negotiations and there is progress on each track."

"It is by accident of history that there was more progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track," the U.S. secretary said, adding that "does not mean that we assign more importance to one track over the other."

The U.S. administration, he said, "has a strong feeling that peace needs to be comprehensive," and that all four tracks of negotiations "need to move forward but not necessarily on the same speed."

He said that the PLO and Israel have been "relatively active" in their negotiations in Cairo but said he hoped that the two sides can "come closer on the issues" being negotiated.

He added that only when progress moves "on the ground" rather than on pieces of paper will the parties in the area be able to see that "progress is possible... because there would have been tangible grassroots improvement."

He said he hoped that the PLO and Israel would be able to reach agreement on an additional release of Palestinian prisoners soon.

He rejected a charge that the U.S. has had a change of position on Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, but said that these two issues were deferred to final status talks through the agreement of the parties concerned and not as a result of a U.S. position.

"The two parties recognised that these are very difficult matters and recognised that the timing (of discussion over these two issues) should come at the end of the talks," Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Christopher, however, reiterated Washington's position against the establishment of a Palestinian state although he said the U.S. was ready to hear other ideas if the parties "come forward" with such ideas.

He reiterated the Clinton administration's commitment to end the Middle East conflict and said it was one of the "top priorities" of the State Department.

"I have been saying that it was right up there with the top six priorities," Mr. Christopher said.

Deputies begin debate on sales tax

(Continued from page 1)

... and the capitalist economy?"

Bassam Al Amoush, an IAF deputy, levelled severe criticism at the government for what he described as its monopoly of the media, promoting opinions in favour of the tax but denying opposing views access to the media.

"The government dealt with media coverage of the draft in an undemocratic and levelling way... which made opponents of the tax look as if they are against citizens and their interests," said Dr. Amoush.

Centrist Deputy Nazeem Samir joined Dr. Amoush, criticising the official media coverage of the tax law while (first Deputy Khalil Haddadin) rejected the draft law because

it is imposed by the IMF and "infringes upon the sovereignty of the country."

The draft legislation, however, had its supporters among lawmakers who said it is required by the interests of the country and its future.

Speaking in his capacity as member of the Finance Committee, Deputy Abdul Karim Kaharid rejected accusation that the committee dismissed differing opinions before it recommended the draft legislation be endorsed as amended by the panel.

"The committee's report is comprehensive, detailed and in favour of the draft law with amendments because it constitutes" real guarantee for the growth and safety of the national economy in the coming years," he said.

He said the committee, which proposed the tax be cut

down from 10 per cent to seven per cent, was aware of the political dimensions to the law when it discussed it and dealt with its "technical, political, economic and social aspects in line with a genuine national will to develop a policy of self-reliance."

Independent Islamist Deputy Abdul Razaq Tubeshat echoed Mr. Kaharid in saying that national interests dictate that the draft law be approved as amended by the Finance Committee.

But insisting that the House approve the draft law as presented by the government, Finance Minister Sami Gammoah said that the introduction of sales tax was an essential part of the economic readjustment programme which will put the country on the course towards self-reliance.

Mr. Gammoah said the new tax would not add to the tax burden of limited income people, would not lead to price hikes and would not harm the national industry.

On the contrary, he said, the tax would improve the investment environment, encourage exports and help save the country's foreign currency reserves.

Mr. Gammoah said the government cannot increase expenditure without raising more revenues, linking the increase of public servants' salaries to the approval of the tax in what some deputies saw as a political move by the government to muster support for the draft law.

"A decision to approve the sales tax is an important turning point in Jordan's economic policy... and a real translation of a new approach that decreases dependency on foreign debt... and protects this country from the disease of begging and swallowing indignity at the doors of industrial countries," Mr. Gammoah told deputies.

The House will resume its debate of the draft law on Sunday and most observers believe the debate will extend into numerous sessions that will see fiery and lengthy debates on the draft legislation.

"Many will try to generate political capital from opposing it," said one observer.

Most observers believe, however, that the House will finally endorse the legislation after amending it to include some of the Financial Committee's recommendations.

Israel, PLO reach deal

(Continued from page 1)

... negotiations over West Bank watersheds.

Since Israel seized the territories in the 1967 Middle East war, it has diverted water from West Bank aquifers in Israel and Jewish settlements.

Israelis want eventual control of West Bank water. According to Israeli and PLO sources, other civil issues involved Wednesday were broadcast channels, cellular phones, electricity, employment and the treasury.

But Mr. Tarifi said negotiators left three details to be decided later by Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. The undecided details were whether the Palestinians would have their postage stamps, passport and telephone area code — all symbols of the Palestinians' statehood.

Under the accord signed by Arafat and the PLO last September, Israel was to start withdrawing from Gaza and Jericho on Dec. 13 and complete its withdrawal April 13 to allow for limited Palestinian self-rule.

The deadlines passed as negotiations dragged on since then. Now, Israeli officials say their troops could be out in matter of days once agreement is reached.

One main dispute remaining was whether Palestinians would have full legal jurisdiction over their autonomous areas. Dr. Shaath has complained that Israel's demand for legal authority over Palestinians and foreigners inside Palestinian areas runs counter to the idea of self-rule.

Lebanese refuse to quit mission

(Continued from page 1)

... service.

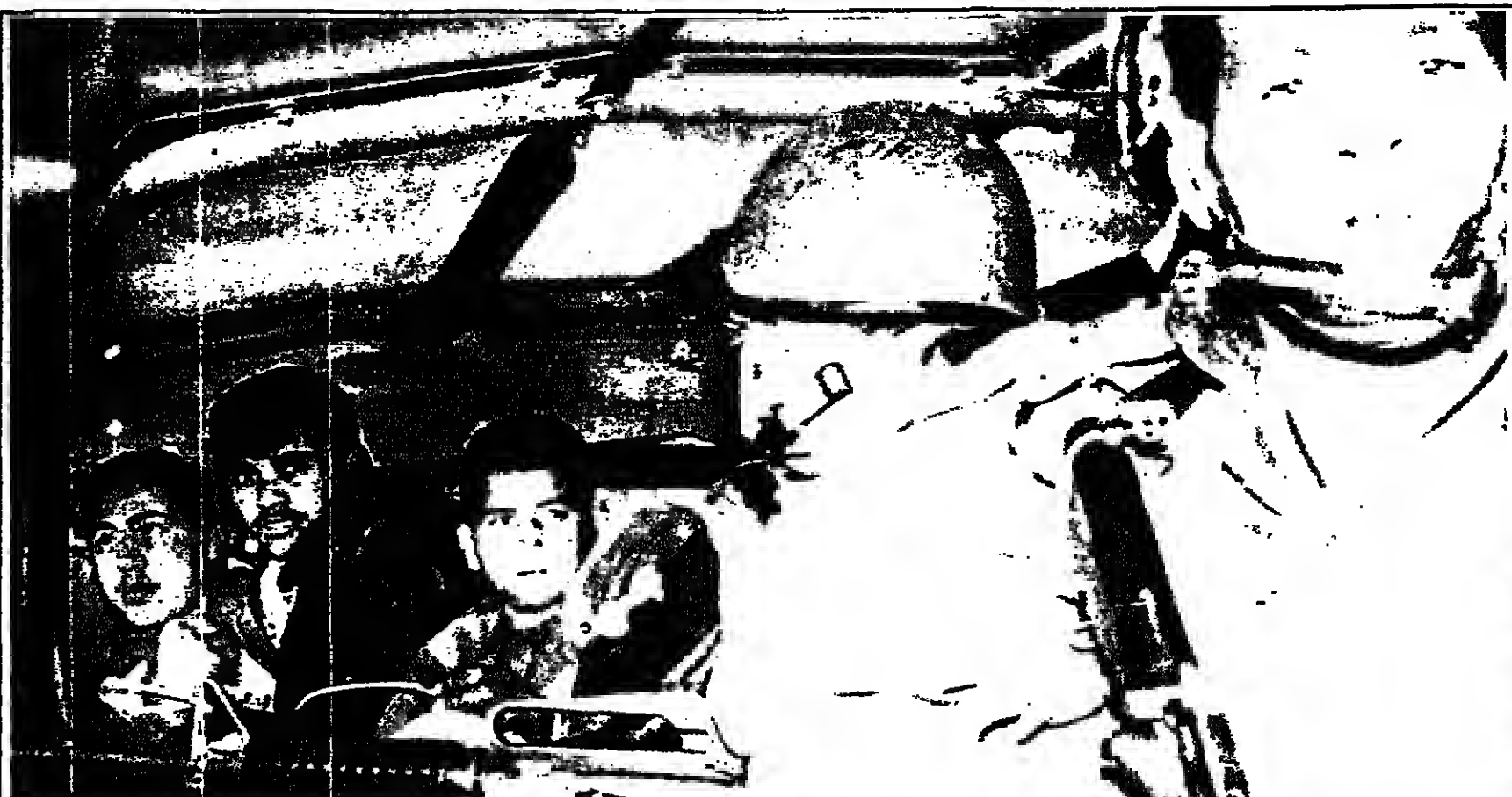
A Lebanese employee of the embassy, George Terejian, allegedly drove the diplomats to Sheikh's apartment, has been arrested and charged with complicity in the slaying.

Prosecutor-General Munif Riadat said Tuesday authorities would press ahead with prosecuting the Iraqi diplomats. He maintained that since relations with Iraq have been broken, the diplomats lost their immunity from prosecution.

But this may conflict with the Vienna convention, which stipulates that envoys should not be arrested and have to retain diplomatic immunity until they leave the country they are accredited to, the leading newspaper Al Nahar reported Wednesday.

Prominent Lebanese jurist Edmond Naim argued against a trial.

The maximum a host country could do, in case of a crime in which diplomats are caught red-handed, "is to expel the diplomats," Mr. Naim, a former central bank governor, told Al Nahar.



The suffering to which Palestinians have been subjected to in the occupied West Bank and Gaza has rekindled Palestinian nationalism among Israel's Arabs (AFP photo)

Israel's Arabs assert Palestinian identity

By Sami Aboudi
Reuter

RAHAT — The Arab crowd wrestled the man to the ground, ripping the Israeli flag from his hands and raising a Palestinian one instead.

In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, such an open display of resistance Israeli would be nothing new. But this was Rahat, a Bedouin Arab village in southern Israel.

Land Day, an annual protest last month by Israel's Arabs against government confiscation of their land, provided fertile ground for seeds of Palestinian nationalism that have taken root among Israel's 850,000 citizens.

Speaking at a rally in Rahat stressed they belonged to the Palestinian nation.

"The handshake between (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin and (Palestine

Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chief Yasser) Arafat has breached many barriers. We are now able to raise Palestinian flags and speak openly about our affiliation," said Ibrahim Al Sayyed, 26, a teacher.

"No matter how long and how far the boundaries separate us. We remain one Palestinian people," said Ibrahim Nimer Hussein, mayor of the town of Shafa Amur in Galilee. "But we also must maintain our citizenship in the (Israeli) state."

For decades, Bedouin Arabs in Israel's southern Negev Desert have served in the Israeli army and avoided political affiliation with Palestinians less than 50 km away.

Now strengthened by prospects of peace between the

Jewish state and its Arab neighbours, Israel's Arabs are trying to reassert the Palestinian identity they lost when Israel was created in 1948.

Hashem Mahameed, a leftist member of the Israeli Parliament, told the crowd in Rahat: "They (Israeli leaders) have tried to divide us into Druze, bedouins and Israel's Arabs. But we are all Palestinians."

The transformation began long before Israel and the PLO signed a peace deal last September. Many say the start of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in 1987 revived Arab bonds broken 46 years ago.

Israel's Arabs have watched scenes of Palestinians being shot by Israeli troops during clashes in the West Bank and Gaza.

Hushed protests under close police watch that swept

Israeli-Arab villages after the massacre of Palestinians in two Beirut refugee camps in 1982 have grown more forceful in recent years.

In events reminiscent of unrest in the occupied territories, young stone-throwing Arabs in Jaffa, Nazareth and Rahat demonstrated with Palestinian flags after a Jewish settler massacred some over 40 Muslims in a Hebron on Feb. 25.

"What we can see is a growing sense of 'Palestinianisation' and a much greater sense of national awareness among Arabs in Israel," said Elie Reikhes, a senior fellow at Tel Aviv University's Dayan Centre and an expert on Israel's Arabs.

"This is pronounced by growing solidarity with Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Arabs and growing identification with the PLO," Israel's Arabs, cut off from

the Arab World after 1948. Watching new Jewish communities thrive on Arab-owned land confiscated by successive governments.

In the initial years of the Jewish state, Israel's Arabs languished under military rule and their political groups were muzzled.

Emerging from military administration, Arabs began mounting protests to recover the land they lost. In 1970, Israeli police shot dead six Arabs in three Galilee villages when Arabs rose to protest government confiscation.

"Until now, the Israeli government has failed to recognise the Arab minority as a national minority. Rather it looked at them as a cultural and religious minority," Mr. Reikhes said.

"Israel's major challenge in the years to come is the question of Jewish-Arab relations in Israel," he said.

Resistance strikes in S. Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

Assad-Hrawi talks

Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi began talks in Damascus on Wednesday on how to coordinate their positions ahead of the new round of peace negotiations in Washington.

Officials said Syria and Lebanon would insist that any proposal aimed at breaking a deadlock in the 29-month-old peace talks should be based on Israel's full withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and South Lebanon.

"Any talk about partial or limited withdrawal from the Golan Heights and South Lebanon will be rejected because occupation and peace could not live together," an official spokesman said.

Presidential spokesman Jambran Kourieh said Syria's Vice President Abdul Halik Khaddam attended part of the meeting at the presidential palace in Damascus before the two presidents went into a closed-door session.

Officials said the talks would cover latest developments in South Lebanon and Lebanese resistance operations against Israeli troops in the area and other issues related to bilateral cooperation.

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Lebanon traders may be sending sugar to Iraq

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese government officials and private traders report widely different figures for sugar imports this year and officials said traders may be quietly reexporting thousands of tonnes to Iraq.

They speculated that sugar may be imported to the free zone of the port of Beirut and sent directly from there — without entering the Lebanese market — by land to Jordan and on to Iraq.

This would avoid U.S. naval inspections of ships arriving at Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba.

The officials spoke during a crisis between Iraq and Lebanon, which broke relations with Baghdad Monday accusing Iraqi diplomats of murdering an Iraqi dissident in Beirut.

A Beirut newspaper said the breach would not affect trade much because Lebanon was officially observing the U.N. embargo against Iraq.

"The trade that is taking place is carried out illegally and Lebanese merchants move exports to Jordan only. From there it is being taken to Iraq," the leftwing daily As Saifa said.

The difference between Lebanon's official and unofficial sugar import figures so far this year is 27,000 tonnes.

Officials of the ministry of economy's Directorate of Cereals and Sugar Beet told Reuters its records show that only 13,000 tonnes of imported white and raw sugar have entered the Lebanese market

since the beginning of the year. This amount, plus 7,000 tonnes of local sugar beet production released onto the market by the directorate, is enough for local needs to date, the officials said. Annual consumption totals 80,000 tonnes.

However, a major private trader told Reuters about 40,000 tonnes of white and raw sugar entered Lebanon since Jan. 1 — far in excess of normal requirements.

All sugar imports to Lebanon are handled by private traders.

The trader said the reason for the unusually large amount of imports was that traders have been taking advantage of low international prices this year.

Asked what happened to the

excess sugar once it entered Lebanon and whether it might go on to neighbouring countries, the trader said: "I don't track shipments."

However, directorate officials said the 27,000 tonnes difference in import figures might be explained if sugar was shipped into the Beirut port free zone and reexported directly from there to neighbouring countries like Iraq and Jordan.

Reexports of sugar usually occurred when neighbouring countries were experiencing a crisis, an official said.

"For the time being there are problems in Aqaba, like (ship) searches and delays so a ship may prefer to bring in extra goods and it may be brought here," he told Reuters.

He said the private sector imported about 75,000 tonnes of white and raw sugar in 1993 and reexported the excess to neighbouring countries.

"Some of it was reexported... mainly to Jordan," Mr. Zeineddine told Reuters.

"but reexporting takes place only when... some country is facing a shortage. It is very rare."

Officials say another reason for the difference in import figures may be that traders may prefer to hold sugar imports in the free zone, releasing them to the market bit by bit to avoid paying tax in a lump sum.

But the private trader said the free zone had no capacity for storing large amounts of sugar.

Mohammad Zeineddine, head of the directorate's supply department, said some sugar reexporting took place last year.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET
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ORGANIZED MARKET PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 20/04/1994

COUNTRY & NAME	TRADED VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN BANK	111,540	188.000	188.000	188.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	142,722	7.580	7.580	7.580
CALING JORDAN BANK	7,470	96.000	96.000	96.000
BANK OF JORDAN	9,738	4.760	4.760	4.760
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	27,758	2.280	2.280	2.280
THE JORDAN BANK	21,381	3.170	3.170	3.170
JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	21,381	3.170	3.170	3.170
JORDAN GULF BANK	48,718	2.220	2.220	2.220
JORDAN TRADING BANK	29,438	2.220	2.220	2.220
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	163,292	4.220	4.220	4.220
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	2,943	5.180	5.180	5.180
REIT ELIAD INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	17,436	9.760	9.760	9.760
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	71,061	1.810	1.810	1.810
GENERAL ASSURANCE	28,725	3.760	3.760	3.760
JORDAN ASSURANCE	525	3.760	3.760	3.760
JORDAN TRADING INSURANCE	6,212	3.120	3.120	3.120
IRIDI DISTRICT ELECTRICITY	28,176	2.050	2.050	2.050
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	2,248	1.430	1.430	1.430
JORDAN NATIONAL DEVELOPING BANK	7,058	8.820	8.820	8.820
JORDAN TOURISM & SPA COMPLEX	37,880	2.440	2.440	2.440
NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	4,278	4.240	4.240	4.240
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALAN	11,350	1.800	1.800	1.800
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	27,891	2.100	2.100	2.100
ARAB CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	45,616	2.940	2.940	2.940
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORY	4,282	1.460	1.460	1.460
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	28,554	2.960	2.960	2.960
JORDAN TANNING	6,211	9.870	9.870	9.870
THE JORDAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	3,740	6.750	6.750	6.750
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	61,252	1.100	1.100	1.100
JORDAN DAIRY	67,594	7.700	7.700	7.700
THE JORDAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	3,000	3.000	3.000	3.000
ARAB CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	25,040	15.000	15.000	15.000
BAFIA INDUSTRIES	1,044	3.150	3.150	3.150
JORDAN GLASS INDUSTRIES	5,978	0.370	0.370	0.370
STAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	162,336	18.350	18.350	18.350
ARAB ACRYLIC INDUSTRIES	2,040	2.040	2.040	2.040
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	6,423	5.450	5.450	5.450
AMMAN PAPER COMMERCE & TRADING	385	3.590	3.590	3.590
AMMAN PAPER CORPORATION	2,460	0.920	0.920	0.920
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	6,647	5.150	5.150	5.150
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	6,148	0.940	0.940	0.940
UNIVERSITY CRITICAL INDUSTRIES	8,844	1.450	1.450	1.450
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	1,098	0.990	0.990	0.990
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	3,400	0.750	0.750	0.750
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	1,475	6.650	6.650	6.650
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	6,461	0.150	0.150	0.150
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	1,305	0.880	0.880	0.880
JORDAN CRITICAL CHEMICALS INDUSTRIES	684	0.110	0.110	0.110
UNIVERSAL JORDAN INDUSTRIES	23,480	4.980	4.980	4.980
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Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date 19/4/94	Tokyo Close Date 20/4/94
Sterling Pound	1.4805	1.4795
Deutsche Mark	1.7005	1.7020
Swiss Franc	1.4434	1.4443
French Franc	5.8375	5.8340**
Japanese Yen	103.15	103.40
European Currency Unit	1.3645	1.3711**

* USD Per STD
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 20/4/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7040	0.7060
Sterling Pound	1.0405	1.0457
Deutsche Mark	0.4150	0.4151
Swiss Franc	0.4866	0.4890
French Franc	0.1204	0.1210
Japanese Yen	0.6806	0.6840
Dutch Guilder	0.3680	0.3698
Swedish Krona	0.0431	0.0435
Italian Lira	0.0431	0.0435
Belgian Franc	0.0431	0.0435

Other Currencies
Date: 20/4/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8510	1.8640
Lebanese Lira	0.040575	0.041775
Saudi Riyal	0.1874	0.1886
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5200	2.5550
Qatari Riyal	0.1911	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.8090	1.8250
UAE Dirham	0.1911	0.1920
Greek Drachma	0.2625	0.3155
Cypriot Pound	1.2750	1.3705

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3852/62	1.6956/66
1.6956/66	1.9048/58
1.9048/58	1.4410/20
1.4410/20	34.95/99
34.95/99	5.8280/30
5.8280/30	1628.60/1
1628.60/1	103.20/30
103.20/30	7.9375/75
7.9375/75	7.3700/50
7.3700/50	6.6630/80
6.6630/80	\$1.4820/30
\$1.4820/30	\$372.55/372.85

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U.S., S. Korea give guarded go-ahead to joint war games

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea said Wednesday it would stage controversial war games with the United States this November, but only if North Korea refused to relent on its refusal to open nuclear sites to international scrutiny.

The Seoul Defence Ministry said Team Spirit joint military exercises could be suspended if North Korea complied with terms set by Washington in February while the two sides were discussing terms for a round of high-level talks.

The ministry's statement came after more than an hour of talks between U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry and his South Korean counterpart Rhee Byung-Tae, who are trying to settle the row over North Korea's secretive nuclear programme.

"(We) would consider suspending the 1994 Team Spirit exercise if conditions for a third round of high-level talks between the United States and North Korea are met," the statement said.

"If North Korea does not comply with the agreement made in February, we will stage Team Spirit around November this year," it added.

Conditions for the U.S.-North Korea talks, which never took place, included inspection of Pyongyang's declared nuclear sites to the satisfaction of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), nuclear watchdog of the United Nations.

Another condition for the talks was the resumption of North-South Korean dialogue, suspended amid acrimony last month when the North threatened that it could turn Seoul into "a sea of flames" in the event of war.

Mr. Perry, speaking after talks with Mr. Rhee, said political tension had risen on the Korean peninsula due to North Korea's refusal to accept the call of the international community to prove that it only has a peaceful nuclear programme.

"The door remains open to dialogue with North Korea to resolve the nuclear question. In the meantime, we shall remain prepared against any North Korean miscalculation," he said.

Mr. Perry and Mr. Rhee stressed their "complete solidarity" in dealing with the isolated Stalinist state after their talks.

"It was an excellent, excellent meeting. We have formed already a deep friendship and I would say without any question that the United States and South Korea have complete solidarity on a whole set of issues affecting us," Mr. Perry said.

Earlier this year the annual Team Spirit exercise was suspended as part of an effort to persuade Communist North Korea to open suspected nuclear facilities to IAEA inspectors.

But South Korea and Washington announced a resumption of preparations after IAEA staff were denied full access to the sites during an inspection tour last month.

Mr. Perry said he felt there was no immediate danger of conflict on the divided Korean peninsula.

"I believe there is no danger of imminent hostilities — any imminent military confrontation between North and South Korea," he said.

North Korea, baulking at the pressure being applied by the United Nations because of its refusal to allow full nuclear inspections, has warned that war could break out again on the peninsula as it is pushed too far.

In a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) and monitored in Tokyo, North Korea said the United States and the IAEA were using the nuclear issue "as a leverage for attaining their dishonest political objectives of strangling North Korea's system."

While Mr. Perry and Mr. Rhee were holding their talks at the Defence Ministry, a rowdy group of students scaled the walls of the ministry compound and staged a sit-down protest.

"No more Americans. Yankee go home," they shouted. They also carried posters saying "no war. Go Yankee" and "you warmongers."

The students were surrounded and arrested by a phalanx of riot police, while military police in the compound

watched without intervening.

The international environment watchdog Greenpeace, currently in South Korea on an anti-nuclear publicity tour, called in an open letter to Mr. Perry Wednesday for Washington to negotiate a halt to nuclear programmes not only in North Korea but also in the South and in Japan.

"All plutonium material and technologies have a potential military utility and therefore, in addition to concerns over the activities of (North Korea), the civil nuclear power programmes of (South Korea) and Japan are also raising tensions about nuclear proliferation in the region," Greenpeace said.

Meanwhile a U.S. defence analyst said Wednesday North Korea is expected to allow fresh nuclear inspections and will soon announce new measures to open its closed economy.

Dr. William Taylor Jr. made the remarks to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency in Beijing, where he arrived Tuesday from a weeklong visit to North Korea. The interview was published in the Korean Language Wednesday.

Dr. Taylor, senior vice president of the Washington-based Centre for Strategic and International Studies, was invited along with several U.S. and Japanese journalists to last Friday's celebrations of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung's 82nd birthday.



South African President F.W. de Klerk (centre) is flanked by African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela (right) and Zulu leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi after they signed an agreement for reconciliation and peace (AFP photo)

Inkatha opens poll campaign

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party opened its campaign Wednesday for next week's historic all-race elections in South Africa, saying God was on its side.

The party's 11th-hour decision to take part in the April 26-28 elections brought jubilation across the country and hopes for an end to political violence that has killed hundreds of people each month.

The ANC described the deal as a miracle to reduce widespread carnage between its supporters and those of Zulu-based Inkatha, which till Tuesday's about-face had planned a polls boycott.

The elections are destined to give political power to majority blacks for the first time, ending three centuries of white dominance at the tip of the African continent.

More than eight million Zulus form the single biggest black group in South Africa.

"It is a miracle that we finally brought (Inkatha) to an all-inclusive settlement. It means that the level of violence will be reduced," ANC Secretary-General Cyril Ramaphosa told foreign correspondents in Johannesburg.

The African National Congress (ANC) is widely tipped to win the election and form a national unity government.

Despite the words of peace, police said four people were killed in suspected political violence in Inkatha's power-base KwaZulu-Natal overnight, bringing to more than 240 the death toll since the March 31 Inkatha election posters,

declaration of a state of emergency in the volatile region.

Spokesman Major Bala Naidoo said while politically-linked violence had declined since the weekend it was too early to say whether Inkatha's decision would further reduce the unrest.

South Africa's financial markets were steady Wednesday after a big leap in shares and currency dealings on the previous day's political sensations.

Inkatha's information chief Ziba Jiyane said his party had agreed Tuesday to join the elections to prevent "bloody civil war."

"Human life is more important than any party interest," Mr. Jiyane said on national television, before leaving for a meeting in the Natal port of Durban to discuss strategy in the national and regional polls.

"God is on our side. We will do wonders," replied Mr. Jiyane when asked if Inkatha had enough time to canvass in the six days before the elections.

ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said the deal meant there should be free political activity in KwaZulu-Natal. Mr. Jiyane said this too should be the case in ANC strongholds elsewhere in the country.

Inkatha's Central Committee met in the KwaZulu capital Ulundi Wednesday to finalise its lists of candidates.

Party supporters took to the streets of Durban and Ulundi on Tuesday in impromptu celebrations following the breakthrough.

Inkatha election posters,

stored during months of tortuous and, until Tuesday, failed negotiations, were dusted off and appeared on streets almost as soon as the decision was announced.

Asked why Inkatha had waited until the last minute to join the transition to majority rule, Mr. Jiyane said: "It is our credit that we stood by our principles despite the enormous sacrifices we had to make."

Announcing the breakthrough Tuesday, President F.W. de Klerk, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Mr. Buthelezi appealed for an end to the violence.

But some of the worst factional fighting in months took place in Tokoza township east of Johannesburg Tuesday, killing at least five people and wounding 40.

The deal met Mr. Buthelezi's demands for a special status for his nephew, the Zulu king and regional powers in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, traditional Zulu heartland.

King Goodwill Zwelithini called on his subjects to renounce violence and vote.

"With the announcement the violence which has erupted in this province needs to come to an end today," the king said.

In contrast to the reaction of most political groups and parties, the neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) said the deal would lead to tribal war.

Rivalry between Inkatha and the ANC has accounted for many of the 10,000 deaths in political unrest in KwaZulu-Natal over the past decade.

Judge values Warhol estate at \$510 million

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge says Andy Warhol's estate is worth about \$510 million, nearly \$300 million more than its executors had declared. Thursday's ruling means the Warhol Foundation, the estate's principal beneficiary, could owe the estate's former lawyer, Edward Hayes, at least \$5 million in legal fees. Mr. Hayes and the foundation have been fighting over the value of the artwork, real estate, cash and other property the late pop artist left when he died on Feb. 22, 1987. Mr. Hayes, whose fees are 2 per cent of the estate's total value, claimed that the estate was worth at least \$700 million. The foundation, relying on appraisals by Christie's art auction officials, said it was worth \$220 million. Surrogate Judge Eve Preninger, after saying it was "difficult, if not foolhardy" to try to put a dollar value on Warhol's property, estimated its worth at \$510 million. The estate has already paid Mr. Hayes \$4.85 million for work he did from 1987 until he was fired last summer. A statement issued by the foundation Thursday called on Mr. Hayes to return the amount, saying there "has been no evidence presented concerning any legal services performed by Mr. Hayes."

Author horrified by award statuette

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Pulitzer prize-winning author Alice Walker, named a California "State Treasure" last month, was horrified when she received the award statuette, a small sculpture of a nude woman's torso — sans arms, legs and a head. Ms. Walker's latest work is a film and companion book about female genital mutilation entitled *Warrior Marks*. "Imagine my horror when, after four years of thinking about the mutilation of women, I was presented with a decapitated, armless, legless woman, on which my name hung from a chain," Ms. Walker told the San Francisco Chronicle. Ms. Walker was recognised last month as a "state treasure" at the fifth annual Governor's Arts Awards in Los Angeles. Fellow recipients included director Steven Spielberg, artist David Hockney and actor Hal Holbrook. Ms. Walker had initially refused to accept the state's highest literary award because educators had pulled two of her short stories from a state achievement test for public school students. Religious conservatives found the stories offensive. But following public outcry, the state reversed its decision to remove the stories, and Ms. Walker decided to accept the award on behalf of those who fought to keep her work on the test.

Nurse needs new liver after patient spits at her

CANBERRA (R) — An Australian nurse caught hepatitis B and had to have a liver transplant after a patient spat in her eye, doctors said in a letter published Saturday. They said it was the first reported case of transmission of the disease in this way. Tests showed the 51-year-old nurse had acute hepatitis B and three days later she was admitted to hospital where she fell into a coma, the doctors wrote in a letter published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*. Six days later she was given a liver transplant. Hepatitis B kills about 1,000 Australians each year. The unnamed nurse had returned to work a year after her transplant, the doctors said.

Hungry mother sells baby

DHAKA (AP) — A penniless woman sold her 8-month-old baby for \$4 so she could feed herself and her three other children, a newspaper reported Monday. Rebeza Begum handed her youngest daughter to a childless couple last week for 150 taka (\$4) after she ran out of handouts from relatives, Bangladesh Patrika newspaper reported. That amount of money can buy 18 kilograms (40 pounds) of rice, the main diet of Bangladeshis, barely enough to feed four people for three weeks. Bangladesh, an impoverished South Asian nation, is home to 120 million people, half of whom cannot afford to buy three meals a day. But cases of parents selling their children are rare. Mrs. Begum has been broke since her peasant husband deserted the family three months ago in the northeastern Habiganj district, patrika. Since selling the baby, Mrs. Begum also has been missing with her three children.

Berlusconi gets down to talks on government

ROME (R) — Media magnate Silvio Berlusconi has begun substantive talks on forming Italy's next government and said he wants to look outside his conservative coalition for some of his ministers.

The tycoon met for three hours at his Rome residence Tuesday night with federalist, neo-fascist and centre-right partners in the "Freedom Alliance" that stormed to victory in last month's general elections.

"I hope that... the prime minister designate will have full responsibility for choosing the government team. And I hope I can also count on ministers, men and women, from outside the majority," Mr. Berlusconi said.

He gave no names but his remarks appeared to refer both to technocrats and to centrists, to whom Mr. Berlusconi is looking for support in the Senate where the Freedom

Alliance secured only a relative majority of seats.

Gianfranco Fini, leader of the neo-Fascist National Alliance, and Roberto Maroni, lower house leader of the federalist Northern League, both said the talks had gone well.

"The main thing we talked about was a government programme, assuming that the head of state appoints Mr. Berlusconi. But we're optimistic on that," Mr. Fini told reporters early Wednesday.

Mr. Maroni said: "We're off to a good start."

President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro is expected to begin formal consultations later this week with the speakers of parliament's two houses, party leaders and institutional figures on whom to appoint as prime minister designate.

His way was cleared last weekend when Freedom Alliance candidates won elec-

tion to the speakers' posts in the new parliament and Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi resigned.

Mr. Ciampi will remain as a caretaker until a government, Italy's 53rd since World War II, is formed.

Political sources expected Mr. Scalfaro to wait until after April 25, a national holiday marking Italy's wartime liberation, to name his choice.

Mr. Berlusconi has said he will not rush to put a government together. "The priority is not the time but the quality of team. And to build the best team takes time," he said.

Mr. Berlusconi, whose soccer club AC Milan won their third successive Italian League title last weekend, stepped aside from a \$7 billion a year broadcasting, publishing and retailing empire just three months ago to enter politics.

His alliance won an absolute majority in the 630-member

Chamber of Deputies in the elections as Italians kicked out an old guard disgraced by two years of corruption scandals.

But it secured only a relative majority in the 315-seat Senate, which can block lower house legislation and must vote confidence in any new government before it can take office.

The small centrist Popular Party, built from the rump of the once powerful Christian Democrats, said Tuesday night that it would vote against a Berlusconi government in both assemblies in a confidence debate.

But its leaders also said they would not act in a way that would make Italy ungovernable.

"The Popular Party... will not mount an opposition whose objective is to impede governability. We will assess each item of legislation on its merits," senior party politician Rocco Buttiglione said.

Japan alliance continues to bicker

TOKYO (R) — Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata stood ready to take over as Japan's next prime minister Wednesday but the ruling coalition's failure to agree on policy meant yet another delay in the vote to confirm him.

The bickering coalition failed to patch up differences on several policy issues after 12 days of acrimonious, on-off talks, delaying a parliamentary vote to elect a new prime minister until Friday at the earliest.

A patient Hata said he was not disturbed by the delay.

"It's very important now that we (the coalition members) agree on a policy direction," Mr. Hata told reporters.

A coalition official said negotiators for the different alliance members were due to resume talks late Wednesday aimed at agreeing to a new policy platform.

The ruling camp has been in turmoil and on the brink of collapse for nearly two weeks since Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's sudden resignation over a loans scam.

Debate on the state budget for 1994/95, which is now three weeks overdue, has been paralysed since the beginning of March. Although bureaucrats take care of day-to-day affairs, parliamentary law-making is on hold.

Only after alliance partners agree on policy will they endorse Mr. Hata as their choice for premier and schedule a vote.

"The coalition parties appear unable to reach an agreement on a common policy and there's no way that we can schedule a vote in parliament to choose a new leader for Thursday," said a Socialist official reached at parliament.

"We'll try for Friday."

The coalition has polarised into two warring factions, with the dominant camp behind conservatives Hata and Ichiro Ozawa, co-leaders of the Shinseito (Renewal Party).

They want the coalition's new policy statement to spell out that the government will raise indirect taxes and agree to take part in United Nations collective defence arrangements.

The Socialists first opposed any reference to indirect taxes in the policy paper.

On Wednesday they proposed the coalition agree to implement broad reform including scrapping the existing three per cent consumption tax, introducing a new type of indirect tax and hiking the ratio of indirect taxes.

On security, they demanded that the reference to "collec-

tive security" be removed, according to Wataru Kihno, the Socialists' secretary-general. Otherwise, he said, Japan would not be adhering to its pacifist constitution prohibiting the country from involvement in conflicts.

"We're not going to give in anymore," said Kazuo Watanabe, a Socialist lawmaker. "They can't ask us to discard our ideals."

Shinseito's Ozawa said the Socialist plan was vague.

While coalition parties bickered over details, Mr. Hata began the process of selecting potential aides to join his new cabinet, pending his election in parliament.

All opposition parties, including the once-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), were expected to field candidates.

If the alliance manages to nominate Mr. Hata, the 58-year-old veteran politician is assured of victory thanks to the coalition's comfortable parliamentary majority.

Mr. Hata said Tuesday he would retain many of the ministers in Mr. Hosokawa's cabinet but talk was rife that several posts would be up-for grabs.

News reports said Mr. Hata was considering creating a new post to take charge of international economic affairs.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Mishaps' reported at Chernobyl

KIEV (R) — Two "technical mishaps" occurred on consecutive days at the Chernobyl nuclear power station during a lengthy international inspection of the plant, Interfax Ukraine News Agency said Wednesday. The agency said the incidents took place Monday and Tuesday at the plant, site of the world's worst nuclear accident in 1986. There was no increase in radiation but both mishaps were recorded at level one on the seven-point international scale. Interfax quoted nuclear industry officials as saying that alarm system were set off Monday in Chernobyl's third reactor after water levels had dropped in its cooling system as the reactor was being reconnected after planned maintenance. On Tuesday, a mechanical unit moving nuclear fuel into place failed and a container banged against adjacent installations. There was no damage to installations and nuclear officials said by telephone the incident rated zero on the international scale.

Senate rejects punishment for admiral

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate rejected an effort by all seven women senators to punish the navy's top admiral for the women-groping 1991 Tailhook sex scandal. They urged the Senate to oppose chief of naval operations Admiral Frank Kelso's retirement as a four-star admiral for what they called his failure of leadership in the scandal. But the Senate approved Adm. Kelso's four-star retirement \$543. His supporters saying he should not be made a scapegoat for wrongdoing not his fault. A Pentagon report said 83 women including 15 navy officers were assaulted in a hallway gantlet. During navy pilots' 1991 Tailhook Convention at a Las Vegas hotel. "Someone in the military must pay a tangible, quantifiable price for Tailhook and no one in the military has except those women who were sexually assaulted," Senator Barbara Boxer, a California Democrat said. President Bill Clinton proposed Adm. Kelso's retirement as a full admiral and Defence Secretary William Perry and other top defence officials urged the Senate to approve it, saying Adm. Kelso committed no wrongdoing in the scandal.

Cambodia confirms fall of Pailin

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas have recaptured their headquarters at Pailin from the army in a serious setback to the Cambodian government, a senior source in Phnom Penh said Wednesday. The Maoist guerrillas said Tuesday they had retaken the western town, exactly a month after a 4,000-strong army expedition seized it amid much fanfare. The government confirmed Tuesday that part of Pailin had fallen but refused all comment Wednesday. A scheduled news briefing was cancelled and journalists were forbidden to contact the Khmer Rouge civilian office in the capital. But the source said the government had privately admitted the loss of the timber- and gem-rich town. He said the army had withdrawn four kilometres east of Pailin and had also withdrawn from a firebase at Sala Krau 15 kilometres north of the town. No casualty figures have been released by the government. The Khmer Rouge said Tuesday they had seized eight tanks and destroyed seven. Figures denied by the government. The guerrillas said Tuesday they first cut a key road linking the firebase at Sala Krau with a Second Army position at Kon Domrei to the east. The insurgents then cut the road from Sala Krau with Pailin before launching their main attack on the town.

French collaborator gets life sentence

VERSAILLES, France (R) — French Jewish groups called for the speedy trial of Nazi collaborator Maurice Papon Wednesday after former militiaman Paul Touvier became the first Frenchman to be convicted of crimes against humanity. In a landmark trial, a nine-member jury and three judges of the Versailles Assize Court jailed Mr. Touvier, 79, for life for his collaboration with Nazi Germany during World War II. Condemned for ordering the execution of seven Jews in June 1944, Mr. Touvier was a member of the feared French militia during the war and hid for more than four decades from justice. Now Mr. Papon is the last Frenchman charged with crimes against humanity who has yet to be brought to justice.

France proposes EU founder club

PARIS (R) — France proposed Tuesday that the European Union create a special category of member states around France and Germany committed to all common EU policies. In a move that could alienate Britain and Denmark, France's European affairs minister, Alain Lamassouere, said a "hard core" of EU member states who supported the full array of common policies must be allowed to move ahead and not be held back by recalcitrant nations. Mr. Lamassouere told the Senate (upper house) that "countries that are ready to move forward must be able to do so without waiting for the others." "This justifies the introduction of a new concept — that of 'new founding countries,'" he said. The French minister said the formal creation of a hard core of countries with France and Germany at the centre would help assimilate new members.

Ukraine to examine arms pact soon

NEW DELHI (R) — Ukraine's foreign minister said that his former Soviet republic had received insufficient funds to help it deal with the huge task of getting rid of what were Soviet nuclear weapons. Anatoly Zlenko, on a two-day visit to India, also said Ukraine's new parliament would soon debate joining the 1968 international nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT). He said Ukraine could understand India's stand on the NPT. "Each country has its own position and each country must take this into account," Mr. Zlenko said of India's failure so far to become party to the pact. He said \$350 million in disarmament aid provided by the United States to his country in no way covered the costs of deactivating some 1,600 warheads in Ukraine, making safe missile silos and retraining personnel. Ukraine has repeatedly said more than \$2 billion is required to complete disarmament.

Finnish killer conscript surrenders

HELSINKI (AP) — An armed conscript who deserted his barracks in southeast Finland and killed three people surrendered at dawn, police said Wednesday. Pvt. Mika Muranen, 22, was apprehended at a housing development in Kotka, 135 kilometres (83 miles) east of Helsinki, after an all-night chase by dozens of police, a helicopter and armoured vehicles. "After a few warning shots by the police, Muranen gave in his weapon and surrendered," said police inspector Arto Mäkelä. Muranen did not fire a shot, but he was grazed by a bullet, Insp. Mäkelä added. On Tuesday, Muranen shot dead Reino Vulkko, 53, and his wife Impi, 54, with a crossbow, Insp. Mäkelä said. Later he killed Matti Ollin, 45, with an assault rifle.

U.S. jury awards \$3.8m to Rodney King

LOS ANGELES (R) — The second phase of beaten black motorist Rodney King's civil lawsuit was due to begin Thursday following a jury award of more than \$3.8 million in compensatory damages against the city of Los Angeles.

Mr. King's videotaped beating at the hands of white police officers on March 3, 1991, ultimately led to the worst U.S. riots this century.

The multiracial jury, which awarded Mr. King a total of \$3,816,335.45 Tuesday, now has to decide on punitive damages against the four Los Angeles police officers involved in the beating and their superiors, including then-police chief Daryl Gates, a controversial figure who ruled

the force for more than 20 years.

Mr. King's attorney, Milton Grimes, said his 29-year-old client was "content" with the award, but was not ecstatic.

However, Mr. Grimes said, he expected to get much more for Mr. King during the punitive-damages stage of the trial. And he pointed out that his client had already won "the largest award to a black man who did not die or lose a limb" in a Los Angeles police brutality case.

U.S. District Judge John Davies, presiding over the trial, told lawyers from both sides Tuesday he would allow Mr. King's attorneys 30 courtroom hours — about a week — to present their case for

punitive damages, and would give defence lawyers roughly the same time, making for a two-week case before the jury once again has to go back to its calculations.

Tuesday's award was significantly less than the \$15 million in compensatory damages Mr. King's lawyers had demanded from the City of Los Angeles during the civil trial but well above the \$800,000 the city said was a fair sum.

Community leaders and Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan said they were satisfied with the jury's assessment and urged the city to get on with its life and put the King case behind it.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Majali holds talks with Syrian minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Wednesday received at his office at the Parliament Syrian Awqaf Minister Abdul Majid Al Tarabulsi, who represented his country at the Kingdom's celebrations marking the completion of renovation work at Al Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock mosques in Jerusalem. Dr. Majali and Mr. Tarabulsi discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Syrian relations in Awqaf and religious fields. The meeting was attended by Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Minister Abdul Salam Al Abbadi.

Two Iraqis steal into Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two unarmed Iraqi men crossed the Jordan River in their underwear Wednesday and then approached an Israeli army base asking for political asylum, ITIM news reports said. Israeli radios and the ITIM news agency said the infiltration was near Kfar Ruppin, a collective farm on the Jordanian border about 80 kilometres north of Jerusalem. It said the men apparently had a criminal record and decided to try seeking asylum in Israel after failing to obtain citizenship in Jordan. They were being questioned by security forces and later would be turned over to police, the agency said. Four other Iraqis infiltrated Israel just north of the same spot earlier this month. They were also being questioned. Israel usually finds other countries to take Iraqis seeking asylum.

Jewish militants protest Odeh memorial

SANTA ANA (AP) — Jewish militants are protesting a civic centres statue honouring slain Arab-American civil rights advocate Alex Odeh because the bombing victim supported the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). "The creators of this sculpture would have everyone believe that the life of Alex Odeh was dedicated to love and peace for all people," Irv Rubin, national chairman of the Jewish Defence League, said in a statement announcing plans to protest before the city council Monday night. "The truth is, Mr. Odeh was a 100 per cent dedicated PLO proponent, notwithstanding the fact that PLO covenant even today advocates the destruction of the Jewish state," Mr. Rubin wrote. Odeh, who would have been 50 this month, was killed in the 1985 bombing of his office at the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee here. No one was ever charged. As the organisation's western regional director, Odeh worked to counter negative stereotypes and fought for fair treatment of Arabs in the United States. More than 500 people showed up April 10 for the unveiling of the three-metre bronze statue by sculptor Khalil Bendib, who portrayed Odeh in a robe holding a book and a dove. Speakers included Arnold Rachlis of the University Synagogue of Irvine, who eulogized Odeh as a man of peace seeking justice for Arabs. "To him Jews, Christians, Muslims, all were the children of Abraham," reads part of the statue's inscription.

Tremor hits southwest Iran

NICOSIA (R) — An earthquake measuring 4.8 degrees on the Richter scale shook Iran's southwestern region of Khuzestan, the Iranian news agency IRNA said on Wednesday. It said there were no reports of casualties or damage in Tuesday's tremor, the last in a series to hit different areas of Iran in the last few months.

Sudanese ship, oil platform burn

SUEZ (AP) — A Sudanese ship rammed an unmanned oil platform Wednesday in the Gulf of Suez, causing fires that burned for hours but no injuries, authorities said. Despite heavy damage and fire on the pumping platform, there was no threat of pollution damage, said Magdi Omar, the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation's top environmental engineer. But Mr. Omar said the platform was put out of action indefinitely. "We have to inspect it and repair it," he said. He said reports from the scene, off the coast south of Ras Shukhri 300 kilometres southeast of Cairo, indicated "the ship is damaged, and the platform is heavily damaged." But its safety valves functioned properly and prevented spillage or pollution. Mr. Omar, general manager for safety and environment with the government-controlled production company, said both the platform and the general cargo ship Marwa caught fire after the 3:30 a.m. (0130GMT) crash. The ship, burned for seven hours, the platform for an hour longer. Egypt is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries but ranks as a significant oil producer at almost 900,000 barrels a day. About half that is exported.

Gunmen kill police general in Egypt

ASSIUT (AP) — Three gunmen opened fire on a police general's car as he rode to work Wednesday, killing him, his bodyguard and a bystander and wounding his driver, authorities said. Brigadier-General Sherien Aly Fahmy's killers escaped, as in most hit-and-run attacks against police in two years of extremist anti-government violence in southern Egypt. Fahmy was the highest-ranking officer slain in the country since attackers killed Cairo's top anti-terrorist official in a machine gun and firebomb attack on April 9. Nobody immediately claimed Wednesday's murder. The extremist Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed the April 9 attack and the assassinations of two of southern Egypt's most senior security officers last year. Police said Wednesday's attack occurred on a downtown Assiut street after Fahmy's car had picked him up for work. The driver, a policeman, was reported critically wounded. More than 350 people, mainly police and extremists, have died since simmering radical discontent exploded into more systematic and coordinated violence in early 1992, the extremists want to overthrow the government and install strict Islamic rule.

CIA says more spy cases coming

WASHINGTON (R) — General Intelligence Agency (CIA) director James Woolsey said Tuesday more cases of Americans selling secrets to foreign agents are about to unfold. He said on NBC's "Today Show" that the CIA was not the only agency penetrated by the Soviet Union and cases are being made against present and former officials based on information obtained from abroad after the collapse of communism. CIA official Aldrich Ames has been charged with being a Soviet "mole" in the CIA and blamed for the deaths of U.S. secret agents in Russia. He and his Colombian-born wife, Rosaria, are awaiting trial on espionage charges. Mr. Woolsey said there are similar cases in the works and indicated that Mr. Ames had yet to cooperate with government investigators despite reports that he is willing to help if the government promises leniency for his wife. "As communism collapsed in East Germany and in the Soviet Union as well as in Eastern Europe and other countries, the CIA has come across a good deal of counter-intelligence information," Mr. Woolsey said. "We have shared this as appropriate with law enforcement agencies in the United States," he said. "There are number of different counter intelligence cases proceed from that."

Swedish car wrecked by Athens bomb

ATHENS (R) — A Swedish diplomat's car was gutted by a fire-bomb on Wednesday, the fourth attack against Western diplomats in Greece this week, police said. No one was injured in the attack in Vouliagmeni, a seaside suburb south of Athens. No one has claimed responsibility. Left-wing guerrillas are suspected of bombing two French diplomatic cars on

Jordan sees new Hamas stand as positive to peace

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Wednesday welcomed the willingness of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to accept United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for peace with Israel.

"We acknowledge parties who adhere to the relevant United Nations resolutions and consider this helpful to the peace process," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told the Jordan Times.

He said that Jordan has accepted United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 pertaining to the conflict between Israel and each of Jordan, Palestine and Syria and resolutions 425 and 426 pertaining to Lebanon as the basis for peace.

He said that when "more parties" accept the Arab consensus that acknowledge these resolutions as the basis for Middle East peace, "then this would be helpful to the peace process."

A leader of the Islamic group Hamas offered to extend recognition and make peace with Israel if the latter agrees to full withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 including East Jerusalem.

"What is required is the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem, and dismantling (Jewish) settlements," Musa Abu Marzuq, head of the Hamas politburo, who is based in Damascus told the Islamist weekly Al Sabeel in an interview published Tuesday.

Mr. Abu Marzuq told Al Sabeel, affiliated with the influential Islamic Action Front (IAF), that his movement's offer amounted to a "political initiative" as a way to break the "present deadlock" in Middle East peace talks.

Hamas conditions included full Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian territories, full and free elections in the West Bank and Gaza and accepting an elected leadership that would "represent the hopes and aspirations of our people and decides on the next step and the future of the Palestinian people."

Mr. Abu Marzuq, in the interview with Al Sabeel, reemphasised these three conditions by saying that they should be fulfilled "if Israel wanted Hamas to agree to peace with the Jewish state."

Many observers said that the Hamas initiative amounted to

an offer of an alternative leadership to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) through the process of elections inside the occupied territories.

Dr. Anani was careful not to mention the movement by name or indicate a Jordanian recognition of the Islamic group as part of the Palestinian leadership.

His Majesty King Hussein had said this week that Jordan only recognises the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine and that "the Palestinians can discuss their affairs on their own, they can agree or disagree... this does not concern us."

The King's statement came after the kingdom was criticised over the presence of Hamas representatives in Jordan.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Thursday threatened Jordan after Hamas spokesman Mohammad Nazzari made statements claiming responsibility for Hamas bomb attacks in Israel that took the lives of 12 Israelis.

Hamas later issued a statement charging that Mr. Rabin was targeting Jordan for criticism after failing to curb Hamas' activities in the occupied territories.

In the occupied Gaza Strip, a leading Hamas activist on Wednesday reiterated that the group was willing to take part in peace negotiations with Israel if it agreed to a set of conditions that include a total withdrawal from the occupied territories.

"The ball is now in Israel's court. If the Israelis give us something worthwhile in return, we will be ready to negotiate with them," Ahmad Bahr, a Hamas preacher and one of 413 Islamic activists expelled to Lebanon in December 1992, was quoted as saying by the AP.

Israeli government spokesman Uri Dromi said Israel would not take anything Hamas said seriously until their actions proved they had altered their written commitment to destroying Israel.

"We will only take anything from Hamas seriously if they actually stop the terrorist attacks, as well as the ineffectual statements they make every Friday, every day, in the mosques," Mr. Dromi said.

He said the sudden pragmatic statements were more likely a result of pressure on the group after the spate of Hamas operations against Israelis.

Terrified U.N. soldiers leave war-torn Kigali

KIGALI (R) — Terrified U.N. soldiers scrambled aboard planes evacuating Kigali on Wednesday as the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Rwanda neared total collapse amid bloody chaos.

Shouting at each other and mulling prayers, 252 Bangladeshi peacekeepers squashed into planes loaded with dozens of U.N. military observers and refugees. Many, murmuring verses from the Koran, had to stand.

U.N. officers said they had been told the rest of a force of 2,500-strong would soon quit the Central African country, ripped apart by civil war and tribal savagery.

They said the decision had been triggered by the refusal of government forces to band the airport over to neutral U.N. control. Some 250 U.N. "Blue Helmets" would stay in a final attempt to broker an end to two weeks of bloodletting.

"If they (the warring parties) do not reach an agreement on a ceasefire it must be very clear we shall not stay here," U.N. special envoy to Rwanda Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh told Reuters late on Tuesday.

Mr. Booh-Booh declined to say what recommendations he had given to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on the future of the U.N. Assistance in Rwanda (UNAMIR) mission.

Asked whether the U.N. was prepared to abandon Rwanda, gripped by an orgy of ethnic killings since President Juvenal Habyarimana died in a plane crash on April 6, Mr. Booh-Booh said:

"We came to assist Rwanda, but we cannot impose any solution on the Rwandan people, who have to help us to help

themselves.

"Another round of bloodletting is inevitable," said one. Rebels of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), sensing they are close to victory after more than four years of bush war, are defiant.

"There are no negotiations," said RPF Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Kayunga at Kigali's bombed-out rebel headquarters.

The RPF now controls parts of Kigali and has government forces besieged from strategic surrounding hills after taking the offensive after Habyarimana's death.

"The problem is not a ceasefire. The problem is ceasing the killing of people, the hacking, spearing and shooting to death of people," said Mr. Kayunga.

As many as 100,000 people may have been killed in the past two weeks, the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch group said in a letter to the Security Council, made public late on Tuesday.

Aid agencies said on Tuesday unofficial estimates of as many as two million people made homeless were plausible.

Piles of stinking corpses litter the streets of Kigali and the hilly countryside, most of them butchered by government soldiers and machete-wielding Hutu militias for being from the minority Tutsi clan or supporting opposition parties.

Countless thousands of civilians can be seen trekking aimlessly about the countryside, trying to avoid battles between rebels and soldiers or marauding Hutu militias.

But in nearly every valley plumes of smoke rise from burning villages and the stench of death is everywhere.

"These people are behaving

Berri ends visit saying talks were highly positive

AMMAN (Petra) — Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri on Wednesday ended a five-day visit to Jordan by describing his talks with His Majesty King Hussein and government leaders and Parliament members as extremely successful.

"My visit here achieved many positive objectives, and I can confirm that we are at the threshold of a fruitful stage of cooperation that would reflect most positively on Jordan and Lebanon and the Arab countries at large," Mr. Berri said, in a pre-departure statement.

"The talks will have their most beneficial effects on coordination among Arab countries at this crucial stage," he added.

Mr. Berri said that the Middle East "is currently witnessing fast moving events and it is incumbent upon Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and the Palestinians, who are most directly affected by them, to coordinate their stand and hold constant meetings to discuss joint action."

Mr. Berri was seen off by his Jordanian counterpart Taher Al Masri, who also said Mr. Berri's visit achieved its goals.



Lower House of Parliament speaker Taher Al Masri (right) with his Lebanese counterpart Nabih Berri upon the latter's departure from Amman on Wednesday after a five-day visit (Petra photo)

"What Lebanon is facing at the moment and the predicament of Yemen are a direct result of the lack of solidarity among Arab states and a failure on the part of the Arab Nation to rise to the level of responsibility," Mr. Berri added.

Mr. Berri was seen off by his Jordanian counterpart Taher Al Masri, who also said Mr. Berri's visit achieved its goals.

"The results of this visit will reflect positively not only at the Jordanian-Lebanese parliamentary levels but also in the pan-Arab political arena," Mr. Masri said.

Lebanon and Jordan are facing similar circumstances and their leaders share similar positions regarding Arab issues and are both keen on reestablishing solidarity and coordination among Arab states," Mr. Masri said.

Jordan unaware of reported plan to 'resettle' refugees

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is not aware of any plan to resettle Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon and insists on their right to return to their homeland or receive compensation as stipulated in United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, senior officials said Wednesday.

Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani and former minister Marwan Dudin, head of the Kingdom's delegation to talks on refugees and displaced persons, said they were not aware of the reported Lebanese plan.

In an interview with Beirut's Al Safir daily on Monday, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fariz Bouez was quoted as saying that the purported four-point plan was under "international consideration." The Associated Press carried a report on the interview.

According to Mr. Bouez, 20 per cent of the 400,000 Palestinian refugees, the bulk of them who fled or forced out of their homes during the 1948 war that led to the creation of Israel, could be absorbed in the Gaza Strip and Jericho — the two areas expected to come under Palestinian autonomy in line with the Sept. 13 agreement signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

He said a scheme under which refugees in Lebanon would join him in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the United States and Canada could absorb another 25 per cent.

The U.S., Canada and Australia could also give priority

in migration permissions to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, he said.

In addition, Mr. Bouez was quoted as saying, the oil-rich Gulf states could absorb Palestinian refugees to replace labourers from Asia and Africa.

The Lebanese foreign minister did not name the countries considering the "resettlement" plan, but said: "It is under discussion on a regional and international level."

A senior official from Canada, which chairs the multilateral working group on refugees and displaced persons, visited Lebanon last year. During the visit, several PLO factions issued statements referring to the "resettlement plan" and warning Canada against pursuing such schemes.

Both Dr. Anani and Dr. Dudin said that they were not aware of any such plan, and if indeed there was one, Jordan was not among the countries considering it.

"Our position is very clear in all bilateral and multilateral negotiations on the refugee problem," said Dr. Anani. "We insist on the implementation of the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions which give the refugees their right to return or receive compensation."

Dr. Anani specifically referred to resolutions 194 and 237. The former ensures the right of return or compensation for Palestinian refugees from 1948, and the latter calls on Israel to allow the return home of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war.

"Resolution 242 is also applicable since it calls for a solution to the problem of refugees," Dr. Anani told the Jordan Times.

Dr. Anani noted that the issue of refugees and displaced persons was an item in the Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace talks signed on Sept. 14, 1993, and said the Kingdom's negotiating stance was aimed at implementation of the resolutions he mentioned.

In effect, Jordan is the only Arab party whose immediate discussions with Israel cover the issue

on a bilateral basis.

The Israel-PLO accord puts off the item until the final status negotiations slated to begin in no later than the third year of autonomy. Lebanese and Syrian position papers that surfaced during the bilateral talks so far do not refer to the problem of refugees at all.

Syria and Lebanon are staying away from the multilateral negotiations, which include the refugee problem as one of the key issues to be resolved.

Dr. Dudin, who has attended every bilateral and multilateral meeting on refugees and displaced persons, said he had not heard of the plan referred to by Mr. Bouez in any of the meetings.

"In me, the plan looks like foreseeing the future," Dr. Dudin said. "There has been no discussion of any definite plan or scheme so far."

In any event, Dr. Dudin reiterated, the basic principle that guides Jordan's approach to the refugee problem is respect for the "fundamental right of every refugee, whether Palestinian or otherwise, to return home."

"It will not be fair at all if this fundamental right is bypassed," Dr. Dudin affirmed. "We consider statements indicating otherwise as reflecting the belief of certain circles that the best way out is to shift the problem to other people's shoulders."

Mr. Bouez also told Al Safir that the overriding factor in Beirut's approach to the problem was that Lebanon would never be able to permanently take in the Palestinians because that would drastically tip the balance in favour of Muslims in the country.

Dr. Dudin said: "Palestinians are the brethren of all Arabs and it is foolish to think they would just go away."

"His lot is his lot," he said, referring to Mr. Bouez and the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon. "That is, until a just and fair solution is found based on international laws and relevant U.N. resolutions."

Human rights activist, journalist criticise restrictions on freedom

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Human rights activists on Wednesday strongly criticised what they saw as the numerous restrictions imposed on the freedom of the press in Jordan and called on the government to be more understanding towards human rights issues and public freedoms.

"The official Jordanian reaction to the reports prepared by human rights organisations was disappointing," said Suleiman Sweiss, a member of the executive committee of the Arab Organisation for Human Rights-Jordan branch, referring to the two reports published last month by Amnesty International and Article 19.

Addressing a seminar held at the Jordanian Writers Association, he said the government had responded to the reports by saying that "these are campaigns launched against Jordan by outside forces."

"It reminds us of reactions forwarded by regimes that are not committed to democracy and do not respect human rights," Dr. Sweiss said. He

radio," he said. "If the local media, dominated by the government, do not dare, after five years of the democratic process, to reflect the other opinion... then why do we keep repeating that we have pluralism like all other democratic societies?"

Dr. Sweiss hailed the positive steps the Kingdom achieved since the introduction of democracy in 1989, but said that introducing new and democratic legislation was a prerequisite to a democratic state. He called for new laws that would protect the workers' rights and women's rights and an amendment to the Press and Publication Law to address "the numerous gaps that exist in the law and that impose restrictions on the freedom of the press and journalism."

In addition, Dr. Sweiss called on the government to ratify the international treaty on freedom of unions.

Yahia Asa'ad, a journalist at the daily newspaper Al Dus-tour, listed the various restrictions imposed on the freedom of the press, pointing out that these practices and restrictions do not exist in democratic

reports carried by Petra, especially official statements and news "that can be often considered as a kind of public relations for the government and its institutions."

According to Dr. Asa'ad, there are certain legal restrictions that impede journalists from practising their profession properly.

"At present, there are 40 cases filed against journalists in court," he said, adding that many articles in the Press and Publications Law were in contradiction with the freedom of the press.

He referred to article 5 that obliges journalists to reveal their sources of information if asked to do so in court, article 40A-4 that bans the publication of articles that infringe upon the "national unity," article 20 that stipulates that the licensing of any publication should be approved by the Cabinet and article 40A-2 that bans the publication of any news item that infringes upon the security apparatus.

Dr. Asa'ad also criticised the censorship on books before

Taiwan defends use of prison labour

TAIPEI (AP) — The government Tuesday defended Taiwan's use of prison labour after a 10-year-old American boy found a plea for help from a Taiwanese prisoner tucked inside his toy airplane. Eddie Tucker of Grand Junction, Colo., found a poorly worded note from prisoner Lin Xin Ping urging the recipient to "investigate Taiwan R.O.C. disobey international human right law... thank you." It asked that the note be sent to "human right box, the White House."

News of the note was carried back to Taiwan in an associated press story, and made headlines on crime pages in Taiwanese newspapers Tuesday. Lawmakers then pressed the government about the allegations that prisoners' human rights were being violated. "It is absolutely legal to have prisoners work when they are serving their terms. Sometimes they even get higher pay than other factory workers, so we are not abusing them," Justice Minister Mr. Yung-Jen told the legislators.

Mr. Lin, 40, was sentenced to 12 years and nine months in Taichung Prison, central Taiwan, in 1991 on robbery, rape, and theft charges. Officials said, Taiwanese law requires prisoners to work 6-8 hours a day. Vice Justice Minister Lin Shyi-Hwu said prison labour taught convicted working skills. International law does not ban the use of prison labour to make goods for export, but U.S. law bans the import of such goods.

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